



**Dodgers
Sign
Shawn
Green
Page 35**

VOL 9 NO. 147

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

U.S. 50 CENTS/NAF. 1.--/ECS 1.--



DP St. Maarten leader Sarah Wescott-Williams (2nd from l) confirms her participation in the Pourier III Cabinet.

Historic Pourier III Cabinet takes office

WILLEMSTAD—Historic. The word was used several times to describe the Pourier III Cabinet, which has the support of 18 of the 22 seats in Parliament and which was sworn in on Monday in Curaçao.

Historic because it is the first

time that nine of the eleven political parties of all five islands of the Netherlands Antilles represented in Parliament are taking part in a central government coalition. Historic because for the first time ever

both parties from Bonaire, the DP and UPB, are part of the same cabinet.

Also historic is the fact that in the record time of three weeks, two

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The Pourier III Cabinet on the stairs of the Governor's House at Fort Amsterdam in Curaçao on Monday. In the front row are, from left to right, Suzanne Camelia-Römer, Governor Jaime Saleh and Miguel Pourier. Behind them, in the second row, are Maurice Adriaens and Lucille George-Wout. In the third row are Maria Bass, Russell Voges and Marcel Gumbs. In the fourth row are Rutse! Martha, Roy Smith and Henry Toré. In the top row are Stanley Lamp, Toon Abraham and Secretary De Windt.

Interim clean-up campaign launched

PHILIPSBURG—In a brief ceremony in front of the Courthouse on Monday, Commissioner Roy Marlin received a Clean-up Campaign T-shirt from Liesa Euton, President of the St. Maarten Hospitality & Trade Association (SHTA).

The presentation of the T-shirt marked the official launching of the SHTA interim clean-up cam-

paign. "Get the ball rolling, the SHTA is ready for it," Euton said in her speech.

"Congratulations, you are always there if Government needs help," Marlin replied to President Euton and Director Marc van de Bilt of the SHTA.

Calling on all St. Maarten businesses and residents, the Commis-

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Commissioner Roy Marlin complimenting SHTA President Liesa Euton on the launching of the interim clean-up campaign.

Big drugs bust suspect freed on technicality

PHILIPSBURG—Venezuelan Pedro José Maduro, one of the suspects in the late night 280 kilo cocaine bust on open sea, September 30, was released from preliminary detention Friday.

The court has ruled that Maduro was detained one hour too long in a police cell, apparently because of a "mix-up" involving the Prosecutor's Office and the police.

Maduro's release followed by his deportation means that he will probably escape having to sit in prison for a number of years. Although he has been given notice to appear in court on December 15, it is highly unlikely that the suspect will indeed come back to St. Maarten to be tried.

Defense lawyer Elvia Moenir-Alam successfully pleaded that her client Maduro had been held too long in a police cell awaiting his

transportation to the House of Detention in Pointe Blanche.

Last Wednesday, the lawyer's

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Today: Partly cloudy, occasionally cloudy.

Winds: East-Southeasterly, 8 to 17 miles per hour, with higher gusts.

Sea conditions: Light, occasionally moderate.

Wind Force: 2 to 4, occasionally higher.

Waves: 2 to 3 feet.

Swell: Southeasterly, 2 to 4 feet.

Barometric pressure: Below normal.

Barometric tendency: Falling slightly.

Forecast high: 31°C 88°F

Forecast low: 24°C 75°F

SYNOPSIS:

A ridge of high pressure covers the Northeastern Caribbean, producing mainly partly cloudy skies. Otherwise, an upper level trough West of the region is forecast to move Eastward and weaken. However, it may induce a few showers.

HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK: None.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Remaining names of possible Storms or Hurricanes during the 1999 Atlantic Hurricane Season (Nov to November 30): Lenny, Maria, Nate, Ophelia, Philippe, Rita, Stan, Tammy, Vince, Wilma.

A broad area of disturbed weather associated with weak low pressure had developed yesterday over the Southwest Caribbean Sea, about 250 miles East of Nicaragua, and was drifting slowly Northwest. Although thunderstorm activity had increased during the night, further development of this system, if any, was expected to be slow.

Elsewhere, tropical storm formation is not expected during the forecast period.

Outlook until Wednesday midday: Partly cloudy, with chance of a shower.

Rainfall probability: 30 per cent.

Rainfall potential: Locally, 1 to 5 mm.

Sunrise: 6:14am; Sunset 5:36pm.

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AMBULANCE
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Red Cross Building: 55263

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Patients of Dr. van Osch and Dr. van der Waag, please call 70444.

Patients of Dr. Abadjeff, Dr. Dernaoul and Dr. Gumbs should contact their own doctor.

ANIMAL AMBULANCE TEAM

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E. Caribbean Cellular: 24100

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Fun Day: Cole Bay at 7:30pm

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Frontstreet 121 (tel.20230) every Wednesday at noon. Mid Isle meeting at Dolce Vita, Maho Plaza every Tuesday 06:00pm - 08:00pm.

LIONS

meeting at Holland House Hotel

every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m.

ST. MAARTEN LEO CLUB

meeting at Jubilee Library 1st, 3rd Friday every month at 6:30 p.m.

KIWANIS

meeting at Shy Sagar, Frontstr. every 2nd/4th Thursday at 7:30pm. Kiwanis Key Club of the St. Maarten Academy meeting at the St. Maarten Academy every Friday at 1:30 p.m.

JAYCEES

meeting at Holland House every last Thursday of the month 8 p.m.

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AIDS Helpline: 133.

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meeting at Flamboyant Hotel, Baie

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LIONS

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KIWANIS:

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Herald



WIPM Leader Ray Hassell and SEA Leader Ingrid Houtman-Whitfield signing the Governing Accord at Avila Beach Hotel on Monday morning.

HISTORIC POURIER

Continued from page 1

new governments - government at the federal level and the Island Government of Curaçao - were formed. The members of the Executive Council were appointed during a special Island Council meeting late Monday afternoon.

At the signing of the Governing Accord at the Avila Beach Hotel on Monday morning, the political leaders of the PAR, PNP, FOL, MAN, DP St. Maarten, DP Bonaire, UPB, SEA and WIPM all had more or less the same message: it will be tough to turn things around, but the end result will be a better Netherlands Antilles or everyone.

Pourier

"Hold on tight together with government. We will see to it that our people will enter a new millennium with a strong government and a better future," PAR Leader and Prime Minister Miguel Pourier told the gathering. He said that in the same was as the politicians have joined forces, the people should do likewise so that the Antilles can grow.

DP St. Maarten Leader Sarah Wescott-Williams noted that since October 15th, when government fell, the people have been holding their breath. "But we have a new government in three weeks," she said.

Referring to the formation talks, Wescott-Williams said: "Some people consider that giving in is defeat, but in this case it is putting the cause above your own interest. What we do must be for the country, not for our self. We know who has to do what and what has to happen."

Suzanne Camelia-Römer, former Prime Minister and PNP Leader, said that although "the road is rocky, we will get there." She stressed, however, that together the people and government have to work together and have faith in each other.

Noting that her party wants to contribute to a better Antilles and especially St. Eustatius, Leader of the St. Eustatius Alliance SEA, Ingrid Houtman-Whitfield, said that the SEA decided to be part of this government, although the party still would like to have the post of a Minister. She expressed the hope that "someday politics will mature enough to give Statia what it deserves."

According to Leader of Saba's WIPM party, Ray Hassell, the new cabinet with "a good governing accord" means "getting out of the vicious circle and bringing prosperity." He warned, however, that "we cannot do it alone. Times will be hard and things will get worse before getting better."

Jopi Abraham, Leader of the DP Bonaire, seated next to his rival Ramonico Booi of the UPB, emphasized that there was need for policies that soften the blows for the people. Booi congratulated "formateur" Pourier for a job well done."

Swearing-in

After the signing, the members of the Council of Ministers were sworn in by the Governor of the Netherlands Antilles Jaime Saleh. Before a limited audience, as the press was not allowed in, Pourier was sworn in as Prime Minister.

The other seven Ministers are Lucille George-Wout (Interior, Labour and Social Affairs), Suzanne Camelia-Römer (National Recovery and Economic Affairs), Rutsel Martha (Justice), Russell Voges (Finance), Maurice Adriaens (Traffic and Communications), Stanley Lamp (Education), Toon Abraham (Public Health).

The State Secretaries are: Marcel Gumbs (General Affairs, Justice), Maria Bass (Personnel Affairs), Roy Smith (General Affairs, Development Co-operation) and Henry Toré (General

Affairs, Privatization).

Governor Saleh in his speech noted that the new cabinet has a tough task ahead of solving the financial and economic problems. The general interest dictates decisiveness and perseverance, the Governor stressed.

It is a good thing the Urgency Program contains a time schedule in which certain measures have to be taken, Saleh said, but he stressed that paper is patient and plans are nicely formulated on paper. "The issue is executing the plans. Get to work is the key, because we have absolutely no time to waste," he advised.

Lt. Governors

The presence of the three Lt. Governors of the Windward Islands who came to Curaçao to meet with the Governor, the new Prime Minister and Justice Minister about the financial situation on their islands was a clear indication that there is no time to waste.

Said St. Maarten Lt. Governor Dennis Richardson, who was present at the swearing in ceremony together with his colleagues Antoine Solagnier (Saba), Eugene Abdul (St. Eustatius), Richard Hart (Bonaire) and Stanley Betrian (Curaçao): "Considering the serious financial situation of the Windward Islands, we came down here to talk."

A lonely Errol Cova, outgoing Chairman of Parliament and PLKP Leader, stated upon descending the stairs of the Governor's house when asked about his feelings: "I am not sad. On the contrary, I am already feeling comfortable in the opposition where I can be the eyes, ears and mouth of those not represented in this government."

Cova confirmed that as soon as he receives the federal decree, he will step down as Chairman of Parliament.

Cupecoy robberies, main suspect held

PHILIPSBURG—Yesterday, police arrested a man who they believe is the main suspect of the violent robberies that have been taking place in the Cupecoy area lately. The man, whose name was not released, was held with the help of the Gendarmes.

His arrest puts the number of suspects held for the robberies at six and, according to Police Commissioner Derrick

Holiday, the area around Atlantis Casino can now be considered safe. "I think we now have them all," Holiday said last night.

Meanwhile, Pay Less Electronics, the company engaged in laying cables alongside the road through Mullet Bay, has put up temporary street lights making that area less dark and obscure at night.

The Mullet Bay area has

been a source of concern in several circles over the past few months. Ditches that were dug alongside the road for a cabling project which was being executed had remained open for months.

Some twenty robberies, experienced by people driving through the very dark neighbourhood, were reported. Business in that area slowed down and at Atlantis Casino employees were notified that they might end up losing their jobs because management had to cut expenses.

Meanwhile, police had set up patrols in the area and first caught five suspects. After the employees conveyed their concern to Commissioners Ferrier and Marlin about the likelihood of losing their jobs, swift action was taken to install the temporary lights.

The commissioners have promised that the ditches will be closed today.

Attempted murder, manslaughter charges likely for berserk man

PHILIPSBURG—Anthony Sappleton, the Jamaican who gave himself up at the police station Friday, after he wounded a number of people with a machete at a Sucker Garden church Thursday, appeared before the Judge of Instruction yesterday.

Up to yesterday, no charges had been filed against him. However, Public Prosecutor Martin Witteveen expects attempted murder and attempted manslaughter charges to be brought later this week. In the interim, Sappleton will remain in prison.

According to Witteveen, Sappleton has confessed to the crime contending that he had done it because he and his estranged wife were experiencing domestic problems, which not even the church had been able to solve.

The security guard caused pandemonium when he wielded a machete outside the Original Pentecostal Church last Thursday evening and wounded seven persons including his wife.

He had first tried to kill his wife with a gun, but started

swinging the machete when the firearm malfunctioned. Also injured were his stepson and the pastor's wife. The stepson was flown out to Curaçao for treatment early Friday morning.

Poll results announced

PHILIPSBURG—A poll conducted by Julio Romney of JS Consulting Services has found that "a definitive 40.4 per cent) the St. Maarten electorate has trust and confidence in the recently-elected Democratic Party Government."

The poll also found that while 62.1 per cent of those polled indicated that they were "not at all clear" to "Not too clear" about the possible referendum options, when asked which option they would vote for in a referendum if it were held today, "a 50 per cent majority indicated that they would cast their popular vote for "Full international self-government within the Antilles."



Yesterday, workmen were busy restoring the walls at Belvedere, which were smashed down by the floods that came after the passing of Hurricane José. "I'll be done with this in another couple of days," the labourer in the picture above told *The Daily Herald*. He said the job was ordered by Public Works in preparation for the visit of Queen Beatrix, which is scheduled to take place next week. Photo by Gromyko Wilson.

Students urged to apply early

Scholarship forms available at Education Department

PHILIPSBURG—Study Financing Coordinator Calvin Mardenborough announced yesterday that the department began with the distribution of scholarship forms yesterday. This means that students, who are now in their final year of secondary school, can apply for scholarship funding.

Mardenborough added that students have until the end of December to complete and return the forms to the Education Department. "The last working day of December will be the last chance you have," he said.

The department usually starts this early with the applications to have enough time to review them and have

the Executive Council take a decision on who should or should not receive a scholarship from the Island Government.

Students are therefore urged to pick up a form as soon as possible. "The earlier you apply, the better it is for you," he added. The department is located in the Vlaam Building opposite the Post Office. Those applying for scholarships must be of Antillean nationality or have lived on the island for at least 10 years consecutively.

In related news, persons owed money by the Federal Government as boarding allowance for students over the year 1994 are requested to contact the Federal

Receiver's Office on E. Camille Richardson street #11 to collect the outstanding amount.

Boarding allowances used to be provided by the Island Government to students to pay the persons with whom they were lodging. The Island Government of St. Maarten decided to stop this process about four years ago and include lodging fees in the total scholarship package.

Flow of Chinese illegals may end

Migrant smuggling ring busted in Suriname

PHILIPSBURG—The flow of illegal Chinese migrants through St. Maarten may come to an end as a result of the busting of a migrant smuggling ring in Suriname believed to be responsible for the flow.

In recent months, St. Maarten had become a favourite transit point for illegal migrant smuggling rings, which have been smuggling Chinese nationals to the US.

Reports indicate that St. Maarten as well as a number of other Caribbean islands and Venezuela and Brazil were used as transit points to smuggle Chinese from Suriname with the US as the end-destination. The ring, according to an article in the *Algemeen Dagblad*, can be held responsible for the smuggling of at least 235 Chinese.

However, a breach occurred in the operations with the recent arrest of five people in Suriname who were selling visas to the Chinese. Among those detained is an employee of Suriname's Central Intelligence Service.

Though only US \$45 is required to obtain a visa for Suriname, the Chinese illegals said they paid be-

tween US \$2,000 and US \$3,000 prompting authorities there to summon home the diplomat responsible for issuing visas at the embassy in China.

Suspicion that the embassy in Beijing was involved in smuggling Chinese to the US via the Johan Pangel International Airport in Suriname have been circulating for some while.

Authorities stumbled onto hard facts when last month 55 Chinese were held in Suriname when the pilot who was supposed to pick them up at the airport did not have adequate documentation. The pilot and two other Chinese were arrested as well. Later on two more Chinese were nabbed.

The pilot declared that he had been involved in smuggling young Chinese men and women for some time before he was held. The pilot and his four partners, were charged with the illegal trade of women and minor boys.

Investigations indicated that the pilot used to fly the Chinese illegals to Venezuela and other countries in the Caribbean. Late last month a group of Chinese was held not far from the St. Martin coast. Not long after, yet another group was held in Saba and locked up here in St. Maarten. Both

groups had been travelling from Suriname on the Tango, a small wooden boat.

Brazil rang the alarm bell last month when its immigration officers were confronted with two groups of Chinese who had come from Suriname. Canada and the US have also expressed concern about the smuggling operation from Suriname.

Meanwhile, the 38 Chinese nationals who have been detained here for several weeks are expected to be flown out to their homeland today.

Drugs bust

Continued from page 1.

request for the release of her client had been denied in the Court of First Instance. However, on Friday, the Court of Appeal ruled that lawyer Moenir-Alam had been right in ascertaining that Maduro had indeed been kept too long in the police cell and should therefore be released.

When questioned about this, Prosecutor William Wijga told *The Daily Herald* that due to a misunderstanding between the prosecutor's office and the police, the Venezuelan suspect had indeed been held in the police cell one hour longer than the one week that was stipulated by the judge of instruction on October 25.

"It is very unfortunate but the defense lawyer was right. It's a technicality but rules are rules. He had to be set free," Wijga said.

On the night of September 30, the Coast Guard of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba arrested Maduro and St. Maarten E.H.C. on open sea when 280 kilograms of neatly packed cocaine was found in their "go-fast."

The two men had tried to burn the heavily laden Boston Whaler prior to the arrival of the coast guard.

During the coast guard action, E.H.C. was wounded by a gunshot and had to be taken to the St. Maarten Medical Center and was later transported to Curaçao, where he is still in the hospital.

Prosecutor Wijga said it is not sure whether the St. Maarten suspect in this cocaine bust will recover in time for the trial on December 15.



This car, reported stolen earlier, was found abandoned at Beet Road in South Reward yesterday. A police patrol unit had tried to apprehend its driver Sunday night, but failed. Monday morning it was parked alongside the road with a flat tire. It was towed to the police station. Photo by Gromyko Wilson.



VACANCY

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Emergency 112
Hot Line 108
Fire Department 120
Hospital 82211/82371
Landradio 82210
Post Office 82207
St. Eustatius Historical Foundation Museum 82288
Wine Office 82362
Lions Club meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at the "Den" next to the Airport
Drug Prevention Foundation meets every Tuesday 5:30pm at the Golden Era Hotel.

SABA
Police Station
 The Bottom, tel. 63237
Emergency 112
Hot Line 108
Hospital
 The Bottom, tel. 63288/63289
Clinic
 Windwardside tel. 62228
Fire Department Airport
 Flat Point tel. 62222
Landradio
 The Bottom, tel. 63211/135
WINAIR, Airport
 Flat Point, tel. 62255
Taxi Service Airport
 Flat Point, tel. 180
Administration Building
 The Bottom, tel. 63311/63312/63313
Tourist Office
 Windwardside, tel. 62231
Harbour Office
 Fort Bay, tel. 63294
Saba Marine Park
 Fort Bay, tel. 63295
Nature & Hike Guide
 James Johnson
 The Bottom, tel. 63307
Service Club
 Saba Lions Club general meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at Eugenius A. Johnson Center.
Alcohol Anonymous
 Wednesday's 7:00pm
 Eugene Johnson Lions Center

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Fire 911
Ambulance 911
Hospital 497 2333
Hospital 497 2351
Dental clinic 497 2343
Radio Anguilla 497 2218
Tourism Department 497 2759
Crimestoppers 0800 7777777
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 Every Thursday.
Seropitist International
 Day Care Centre
 4.30 p.m. 2nd Tuesday
 In each month Tel: 497 3509
Lions Club
 The Valley Primary School
 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 8.00 p.m.
 Tel: 497 6259
National Council of Women
 Arts and Craft Centre
 4.30 p.m. 1st Monday in month.
Interact Club of Anguilla
 Meets every Friday at 3.15 p.m.
 at the Albena Lake Hodge Comprehensive School



Traffic control by the police on Saba. Photo by Gromyko Wilson.

Six warnings issued in traffic control

SABA—In a routine traffic control on Friday the police issued warnings to six drivers whose cars had defective lights and/or defective screen wipers, Major Winston Victoria told The Daily Herald Monday.

He said that the four of-

fenders had been given two days to have the mal-functioning parts repaired. "All six of them reported at the police station, saying that the necessary repairs had been done," Major Victoria said.

Also on Friday, he added, two men had been in a fight

in which a 22-year old drug addict had beaten up 31-year-old A.H. with a baseball bat.

The victim had to be treated for his injuries at the medical center, the Police Major said.

Medical school campus groundbreaking imminent

SABA—The groundbreaking ceremony of the new campus of the Saba University School of Medicine will take place at the end of this month, Commissioner Will Johnson announced Monday.

He said the new campus would be located on Round Hill in The Bottom and the contract had been given to local contractor H.E.S. Construction.

"It entails a multi-million dollar investment for a 3-storey building of traditional Saba architecture similar to the Government Administration building," Johnson revealed.

He said the new facility would comprise an anatomy lab, an auditorium and administrative offices, while a number of other buildings would be constructed at a later stage.

St. Martin delegation at economists' conference

MARIGOT—General Councillor and member of the Movement for the Advancement of the People (MAP) Louis Mussington, is currently heading a MAP delegation at the Sixth Annual Conference of the Association of Caribbean Economists (ACE) now being held in Fort-de-France, Martinique.

The conference got underway on Sunday, November 7, under the sponsorship of the Regional Council of Martinique. It will end on Wednesday, November 10. A press release from MAP said the overall aim of the conference is to "examine current processes of global restructuring; to explore how these processes affect the future economic and social development of the Caribbean; and to discuss strategies and collaborative approaches to the challenges identified."

entitled, "St. Martin in a restructuring French Controlled Caribbean."

One of the key themes which will be addressed at the four-day conference is, "the future of Caribbean islands that are non-independent, associated to, or part of a North American or European state."

Conference participants will also examine themes such as the repositioning and future direction of Caribbean economies; negotiating strategies for the Caribbean towards a new regionalism in the wider Caribbean and Caribbean Economic Theory.

The conference program also makes provision for special workshops for business and civil society groups. At these workshops, participants will seek to identify possible collaborative projects between French Overseas Departments and other Caribbean countries and work out a follow-up program of action.

First Lions zone meeting on Statia

ST. EUSTATIUS—Lions Club zone chairlady Edwina Linzey of Saba kept her first advisory zone meeting on Statia last weekend, according to Kees Sneek of the St. Eustatius Lions Club.

He said Lions had been present from all four clubs in the zone, which comprises St. Maarten, Saba, Anguilla and Statia.

"The meeting took place in the Lions Den on Saturday, but most of the Lions arrived already on Friday to participate in a variety of activities until Sunday afternoon, since the meeting was part of a friendship weekend," Sneek said.

Besides the Lions, Commissioner Luis Brown and representatives of a number of other organisations were present. During the cocktail party on Friday, the St. Eustatius Lions Club made presentations.

Amanda Schmidt of the Auxiliary Home received a check for US \$200 to purchase curtains. Millicent Lijfrock of the Post Office Philatelic Youth Group received a check for NAF. 200 and Debby Clark of Buzzy Bees Inn day care center was presented with a check for NAF. 1,000 to purchase riding toys.

The first advisory zone meeting on Saturday was attended by 45 Lions and Leos. In the evening the Kili Kili Band performed during happy hour, for which the general public was also invited, Sneek said.

The Lions of the four clubs cleaned several acres of land

west of the airport in a clean-up campaign on Sunday.

"After the clean-up the Lions and Leos were treated to a Statia breakfast with johnny cakes, salt fish and bush tea. After lunch all Lions and Leos departed for their respective home islands," Sneek said. He added that some of the Statia Lions had accompanied Saba Lions on their home journey aboard the Statia harbour boat Waterman.

"During their few hours on Saba they were well taken care of by their Saba Lion friends," according to the St. Eustatius Lions' spokesman, who concluded that it had been a very successful weekend with a right mix of serious business and pleasure.

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A smelly mess on Front Street

PHILIPSBURG—A few Managers of businesses on Frontstreet have expressed their dissatisfaction and annoyance at what they describe as a continuing problem with sewage from their landlords' system using their front steps as a path to flow directly into the sea.

The merchants contacted Harbourmaster Sonny Hoo

on Monday, who responded by visiting the site to witness the problem first hand. Apparent at the area were wads of bathroom tissue and feces in close proximity to the stores creating a stench, which the merchants explained were keeping customers away.

Harbour Master Hoo told journalists from The Daily Herald, who were also on the scene, that he intended to demand that the building owner rectify the problem immediately.

The merchants explained that they had contacted the landlord on several occasions and have had repairs done to the sewage system, but the problem keeps recurring.

The Daily Herald contacted the landlord who said that he had already contacted a company to do the necessary repairs and expects work to begin today, Tuesday, November 9. He explained that the building was only four years old and that he has had the sewage system cleaned six to seven times but the problem keeps coming back. He said he suspects that tissue is usually thrown into the bowl and that this is the most probable cause of the recurring problem.

He also told The Daily Herald that he believes the



Pradeep Sharma, one of the store owners, points at the raw sewage that runs into the sea.

merchants who are his tenants may have malicious intentions in contacting the harbour master and that he is suspicious that they may have clogged the system up themselves to excuse their failure to pay their rent. According to the landlord, the merchants have not paid him rent for at least four months and as a result he took them to court to try and obtain approximately US \$26,000 they jointly owe him.

According to the owner, parties had come to an agreement. To his understanding the merchants were

given a deadline to meet these payments. If they failed to keep that deadline, they would be shut down.

Attempted murder, manslaughter charges likely for berserk man

PHILIPSBURG—Anthony Sappleton, the Jamaican who gave himself up at the police station Friday, after he wounded a number of people with a machete at a Sucker Garden church Thursday, appeared before the Judge of Instruction yesterday.

Up to yesterday, no charges had been filed against him. However, Public Prosecutor Martin Witteveen expects attempted murder and attempted manslaughter charges to be brought later this week. In the interim, Sappleton will remain in prison.

According to Witteveen, Sappleton has confessed to the

crime contending that he had done it because he and his estranged wife were experiencing domestic problems, which not even the church had been able to solve.

The security guard caused pandemonium when he wielded a machete outside the Original Pentecostal Church last Thursday evening and wounded seven persons including his wife.

He had first tried to kill his wife with a gun, but started swinging the machete when the firearm malfunctioned. Also injured were his stepson and the pastor's wife. The stepson was flown out to Curacao for treatment early Friday morning.



Kneeling and wearing the special T-shirts are President Liesa Euton and Director Marc van de Bilt of the SHTA. Standing behind them are Meadowlands N.V. owner Godfried Richardson (r) and managing director Mervin Heyliger (c) and Total Cleaning N.V. owner Eugene James together with other members of the interim clean-up crew.

Clean up campaign

Continued from page 1.

sioner added, "Let's stop complaining and put all hands together starting in Frontstreet, then Backstreet, then Cannegietstreet and the entire island."

Commissioner Theo Heyliger, who had also been invited for the clean-up campaign launching, arrived late because of a meeting and was handed the shirt later.

Van de Bilt told The Daily Herald that the interim clean-up campaign is coordinated by the District Improvement Team (DIT), members of which are Government, residents, local businesses and their repre-

sentative the SHTA.

Other issues DIT will focus on include promotion of special events, crime prevention, capital improvement and more, according to Van de Bilt. He added that the team is also working on a draft DIT ordinance on which it is being advised by Ivy Harris & Walsh, a Florida-based landscaping company.

"The complete program is a multi million thing and the ordinance has yet to be drafted. It will take a long time before it is approved by government. Rather than waiting for it, let's do something now. We have an im-

mediate problem," Van de Bilt said, explaining why the interim clean-up campaign has been organized.

The SHTA Director pointed out that while the DIT ordinance will make it mandatory for businesses to support it, the current interim clean-up campaign is being supported by some forty Frontstreet businesses on a voluntary basis.

Two cleaning companies, Meadowlands N.V. and Total Cleaning N.V. also gave their support to the supplementary Frontstreet clean-up campaign by charging cost price only, Van de Bilt concluded.

Street Vibes:

"What are your hopes for and concerns about St. Maarten as we prepare to mark St. Maarten/St. Martin Day 1999?"

PHILIPSBURG—St. Maarten/St. Martin will observe St. Maarten Day on Thursday, November 11, and preparations have already begun. The Daily Herald sought the vibes on the street to try and find out the hopes and dreams for the island of the people who make up St. Maarten.

Clyde Johal: "I would want to see plenty things nice, but to have no problems or violence. I wish to see everything going good."

Tasha Richardson: "My hope for St. Maarten is that the violence and the amount of crime simmer down. I would also like to see the school system be upgraded." Manoj Mehbubani: "I hope business and tourism will improve in the coming year. I would also like to see a proper drainage system in the near future. I would also like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a Happy St. Maarten Day."

Lindy St. Agnest: "I would



Wellington Hodge

like to see a cleaner St. Maarten. I hope to see they treat the foreigners better. That would help tourism. I would also like to see Public Works do something about the water on the L.B. Scott Road."

Mark: "I would like to see them clean up St. Maarten and fix up the roads. I would also like to see resorts like Mullet Bay reopened."

Melani Fleming: "I would like to see a lot of things happen here. Nothing here is as it should be. I would



B.J. Askew

like to see improvement in every area."

Gibbs: "I would like to see the French Side and Dutch side work closer together and the crime rate decrease."

B.J. Askew: "St. Maarten

is not really a bad place. Like now Theo doing something good and more tourist coming, but I would like to see more, especially with the building of the wharf. The crime rate for this year was already too much. We cannot be afraid of our own people. The cops them should be working on that." Wellington Hodge: "I don't have any hopes for or concerns about St. Maarten."

Andrew: "I hope St. Maarten will be economically secure by 2000 and I think St. Maarten Day should draw the politicians together. Everybody should come as one and let's work in the benefit of St. Maarten."

Ruling in cigar case expected by November 19

PHILIPSBURG—A ruling in a case brought before the judge on November 5 by Cuban cigar brand owner Ellis Bellos of Caribbean Duty Free Cigar Distributors (CDFCD) N.V. against Frontstreet merchant Jackie Atmaramani is expected on November 19, according to CDFCD's lawyer.

He explained that since it is an injunction case, (i.e. judicial order restraining a person or body from an act), the court must, in principle, take at least two weeks to decide.

CDFCD's Managing Director has requested that the judge stop Atmaramani from selling his brand of Cuban Cigars. In an October 3 interview with The Daily Herald, prior to the hearing, Atmaramani called the tactics employed by CDFCD dictatorial, explain-

ing that he and a few other merchants on Frontstreet have for years been trying to legally purchase Cuban Cigars from CDFCD, but that Bellos had repeatedly refused to sell to them.

The merchants said that they then began buying the cigars from another source, which cost them more money. Bellos in turn told The Daily Herald in an October 7 interview that "to sell or not to sell is my prerogative." He added that "for three years these merchants thought they were above the law, but now they find that they are not."

In an interview on Monday Bellos said that it's not that he does want to sell to the merchants, but it's an issue of to whom and under what conditions he sells.

Changes in Education discussed with Sarah

PHILIPSBURG—Superintendent of the School Board for Secondary Education Josef Vliegen described the board's meeting with Commissioner of Education Sa-

rah Wescott-Williams last week as a fruitful and "idea-sharing" session.

Not willing to elaborate too much about the "ins and outs" of the meeting, Vliegen said the upcoming changes in education were the main focus of the meeting. The meeting he explained, addressed the things that have to be put in place or set in motion to meet the August 2000 deadline for the implementation of the changes.

These changes include the merging of the MAVO and

BVO systems along with the new functioning of the HAVO and VWO among other things. Vliegen said urgency was placed on a number of issues which must be dealt with to be able to start in August of 2000.

He was not willing to disclose any detailed information since, according to him, plans still have to be exchanged and finalized before they could be made public. He explained however that the plans are in advanced stages of preparation.

Movies, activities at Jubilee library

PHILIPSBURG—As part of this year's Reading Programme, Philipsburg Jubilee library will be having an afternoon with Anansi activities on Wednesday, November 10, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

Anansi stories about a spider always trying to trick others are well known over the world, the library stated in a release on Monday.

All children eight years and older are welcome at the library to listen to an Anansi story, do Anansi handicrafts and watch an Anansi movie.

The library also announced a story-telling afternoon for all pre-schoolers on Wednesday, November 17, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

That afternoon will be filled with Arthur and Franklin stories, handicrafts and Arthur movies. All kindergarten children and their parents are welcome to attend this event.



Melmarie Jacobs, seen here receiving her gift certificate for US \$50 from Head of Advertising Dagmar van Eijk, is the lucky winner of The Daily Herald's Guess Where? Guess What? Challenge published last Saturday. She correctly pointed out that Marcel Gumbs' hair had been darkened, the ring had been removed from Louie Laveist's finger, juice had been added to a glass on the table, a hole had been filled in at the back of the chair and the strap of Ray Hassell's watch had been removed. Melmarie may use her gift voucher at any of the following stores: Just-in, Levi's Boutique, Caribbean Palm, Kwik Bargains/Kwik Ideas and Benetton.

Senior Citizens dinner was memorable occasion

PHILIPSBURG—A dinner organized by the Helping Hands Foundation in conjunction with Management of Cheri's Cafe is being heralded as memorable by the board of the Helping Hands Foundation.

The dinner was held at Cheri's Cafe on Thursday, November 4, and coordinator of Helping Hands Jackie James said that thanks to

the personnel and management of the restaurant, the senior citizens were given "a wonderful evening without measure."

She explained that "Cheri went beyond to give the senior citizens a very good evening dinner" as well as "souvenirs." James also took the opportunity to thank the taxi drivers whom she said assisted the senior citizens

and the foundation by providing transportation.

James explained that the senior citizens dinner was organized in keeping with the United Nations declaration of 1999 as the international year of the elderly. The dinner was originally scheduled to be held in October, but was postponed to November 4 due to the passing of Hurricane José.



During the ceremony for the official launching of the SHTA clean-up campaign on Monday, owner Godfried Richardson and managing director Mervin Heyliger of Meadowlands N.V. presented the brand new outfit of their cleaning crew. Standing in front of the Courthouse, three employees showed their neat green uniforms with the company's name printed on them in white characters.



St. Maarten's newest restaurant La Casbah opened its doors last night for an informal gathering of friends and special guests. Beautifully situated right on the seaside at Caravan-sai, with an attractive outdoor dining section, La Casbah offers a choice of French and more in particular Moroccan cuisine. A large crowd came out to wish the owners Helen and Charles Danah well with their new enterprise. In the photo left to right: Leo Chance of Maduro & Sons; Rajan Idnani of the American Gift Shop; Helen and Charles Danah; Liesa Euton, president of the St. Maarten Hospitality and Trade Association; Commissioner Theo Heyliger; and Marjolijn Richardson representing her husband Lt. Governor Dennis Richardson, who was in Curaçao for a meeting with Governor of the Netherlands Antilles Jaime Saleh.

Haviser, new museums association director

CURAÇAO—Jay Haviser has been appointed chairman of the Museums Association of the Caribbean (MAC), the Jacob Gelt Dekker Institute for advanced cultural studies in Curaçao reported Monday.

The Institute stated that its Director Haviser — a well known Netherlands Antillean

archaeologist — had been appointed to the function of MAC chairman for a period of three years.

The appointment took place in Trinidad last week.

MAC is a Barbados based international organisation of museum and culture specialists in the Caribbean Basin. It

has representatives in most of the Caribbean islands.

MAC has direct links to other international organisations, such as the International Council of Museums, UNESCO and Cariforum, the Institute stated in its release.

Nevis goes solo at World Travel market

NEVIS—The World Travel Market starts on November 15 at Earl's Court, London, and for the first time, Nevis will be taking part with its own booth, unlike previous years where it shared a booth with St. Kitts.

In the words of Premier of Nevis Vance Amory, this will enable Nevis to accommodate more of the hotel and tourism providers, enabling it to focus more on meetings with persons who wish to do business with Nevis.

Amory said, "We will have a large delegation of tourism representatives, hotel owners and representatives of the Government Tourism Department promoting Nevis at this exhibition. We will not have to be sharing accommodation, which has been a source of certain embarrassments and a bit of congestion, because of the size of the booth at the World Travel Market."

At the exhibition, the government of Nevis will assume a major responsibility for the island's promotion, but each hotel will do its own promotion, targeting its own marketers. Premier Amory de-

scribed Nevis' participation at the event as a "joint effort carried out by both groups."

He also said that hotels in Nevis were open and ready for business and that the gov-

ernment and people of Nevis were looking forward to a very successful tourism season.

The World Travel Market exhibition ends on November 19.

Jobfair manager wants regional job center

PHILIPSBURG—The developing integration and free movement of labour within the Caribbean warrants the establishment of a regional Caribbean job center. Jobfair Manager Joseph van Doorn said Monday.

He pointed out that such a center could enhance the search for job opportunities within the Caribbean.

Mentioning examples of job opportunities and job agency development in Guyana, St. Lucia and Ja-

maica, Van Doorn said Caribbean Jobfair would like to see governments pooling their resources together and set up a center for the Caribbean.

They should preferably work together with a private sector enterprise such as Caribbean Jobfair on St. Maarten, he added.

"We have many young people working abroad, who like to return and seek employment in the public and private sector. The public sector is as much in need of highly qualified people as the private sector. We assist them in searching for suitable candidates," Van Doorn said.

Boy injured in accident

PHILIPSBURG—A young boy was slightly injured Sunday, when a car hit the car he was in from behind. The accident happened on A.T. Illidge Road in Dutch Quarter. Both cars were damaged. The boy complained about pain in his neck and was taken to St. Maarten Medical Center by ambulance.



Senior Government functionaries discuss the programme.

EC \$15 million programme to pave roads underway

ST. KITTS—Construction of unpaved roads in the Bird Rock, Harbour View and Earle Morne Housing Developments, postponed last year due to the destruction in the federation from Hurricane Georges, is becoming a reality.

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Denzil Douglas joined Parliamentary Representative and Minister of Health and Women's Affairs Dr. Earl Asim Martin, Minister of Communications, Works and Public Utilities Cedric Liburd and two officials of the Public

Works Department on an inspection tour of the roads in those residential areas.

Minister Martin said an EC \$15 million dollar island-wide road programme signed on Monday by Douglas would be used to enhance the continued overall development of East Basseterre.

"We expect this road will improve the quality of life for the residents in these areas, that it will improve a smooth flow of vehicular traffic in these areas and curtail the constant soil erosion that we have been having with heavy rain showers," said Martin.

He expressed thanks and appreciation to his Cabinet colleagues for "assisting thus far in the overall infrastructural development in East Basseterre and of course the Minister of Finance, the Prime Minister,

for releasing the necessary funds for the overall infrastructural development in East Basseterre."

Minister of Communications, Works and Public Utilities Cedric Liburd said the multi-million-dollar road construction programme would see the building of roads in several residential areas of St. Kitts.

Residential housing areas listed for the construction of roads are Stonefort, George Peace, Green Tree, Gundo Field, Saddlers, Newton Ground, Tabernacle, Lime Kiln, Taylors and Bird Rock.

This EC \$15 million road programme is in addition to the reconstruction of Cayon Street between St. Kitts Bottling Company and Kittstodarts, now in progress, and the reconstruction of Bay Road in Basseterre between the War Memorial and Pelical Mall.

Hughes says no to opposition proposal

ANGUILLA—Chief Minister Hubert Hughes in his press conference with Radio Anguilla on Friday said he had written a negative response to the Opposition, which he was posting that day, in reply to their letter of October 11 offering a proposal to end the present impasse.

The Opposition's letter offered to end their boycott of the House of Assembly to deal with outstanding business, if Hughes sent an irrevocable order to the Governor for the dissolution of the House by November 15 and set a date for new elections before December 10. Hughes referred to the letter as shallow and said he had given the Opposition an

almost immediate response some time ago in a press conference.

"As I said before, it was a very shallow letter, it had nothing new and I am using the occasion to remind the Opposition of a few salient facts." He then proceeded to read a very lengthy and acrimonious response rejecting the Opposition's pro-

posal.

Hughes maintained that he was not running a minority government and that he had the support of the majority of the Anguillian people. He questioned the Opposition's leadership qualities and their motives, which he said were selfish and self-seeking. "You are demanding the resignation of my Government. You must first convince both the electorate and the Minister member of my Government there is a credible alternative and people do not believe so." He continued: "Your recipe set out in your letter is a recipe for disaster. The combination of the Opposition would become catastrophe to the wishes of all Anguilla."

The way forward, he suggested, was that the Opposition do the duty for which they had been elected and for which they were being paid and that was to transact the people's business in the House of Assembly.

He said, "This is your duty and I suggest that you should do your duty. However, the tactics you have employed would result in the wanton spending of money in a court case. Your immediate return the House of Assembly

would save us some money, with which we could pay our civil servants some sort of Christmas bonus under these difficult circumstances.

"Let us not forget that none of us has the divine right to be re-elected; that they, people who vote us out or vote us in on the 4th of March would certainly vote us out at the very elections you are calling for if you continue to put this peaceful little island of ours through such pressure by selfish, self-seeking motives and blackmail."

Hughes ended the letter by throwing out a challenge to the Opposition: "In your letter you implied that our people are not well served and that hardships are imposed on them. I am not aware that in the day-to-day running of Government where our people are not well served nor where hardships are imposed, but if you are, then I throw out the challenge, come over to Macedonia and serve, come and help us, not seeking for any reward, but to do the will of the people who elected you."

At the same press conference, the Chief Minister read a letter he had received from Speaker of the House of Assembly Roy Rogers, regarding a proposal the Speaker had made to Hughes in a meeting in October that a special sitting of the House be convened to deal with Rules of Procedure in the matter of a quorum.

The matter is now in the courts and to settle out of court would save litigation costs. The letter said that Hughes had agreed to the proposal at that meeting and was asking for speedy action on the matter. As the House is now on prorogue, Hughes would have to lift that prorogue.

Hughes denied having agreed to the Speaker's offer and rejected the letter, saying that Rogers had no guarantee that the four Opposition members were prepared to come to the House of Assembly.

Further, he said, "Any meeting of the House cannot just look at the Rules of Procedure, any meeting of the House would have to do the most important things first and that is pass the Finance Bills that we have there to pay people who are on contract who cannot be paid."

Scotiabank launches Y2K compliant ATM

ST. KITTS—St. Kitts and Nevis customers of the various branches of the Bank of Nova Scotia, popularly called Scotiabank, now have Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) that will serve them into the new century.

The bank completed the installation of a Y2K compliant ATM at its Fort Street head office in St. Kitts over the weekend and the ATM is now open to customers.

Speaking to The Daily Her-

ald from her Fort Street office, Yvonne Tyrell explained, "We have moved out the old ATM and installed a new IBM 4789 ATM that has virtually the same features as the old one."

Customers can use the new ATM for their regular transactions, including credit card transactions. In addition, the bank has installed a new piece of equipment, a cash dispenser, at the Fort Street branch. It will be in operation

from Tuesday, November 9. Tyrell explained that the cash dispenser would function almost like a regular ATM, but could only be used for cash withdrawals made either with the regular Scotiabank card or the Mastercard Credit Card. She said, "Customers will not be able to make deposits using this cash dispenser."

She confirmed to this paper that "Scotiabank is looking into the possibility of installing another cash dispenser somewhere on the island, but no final decision has been made as yet. The location is still to be determined."

Tyrell also confirmed that the Bird Rock Branch of the bank had a Y2K compliant ATM in operation. She said the Nevis office of the bank had one installed long ago and that it was Y2K compliant, so customers need not worry about anything.

All the three Scotiabank machines are in full operation already and will be joined by the services of the cash dispenser on November 9.



Tessa Isaac, an employee of Scotiabank, at the new Y2K compliant ATM outside the entrance to the Fort Street head office of Scotiabank in St. Kitts.

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Antigua uncovers money laundering by Ukrainian

ST JOHN'S, Antigua—The Antigua and Barbuda government on Monday said it had uncovered a major Ukrainian money laundering operation involving nearly US \$100 million.

A short, two-page statement released by the Prime Minister's Office in St. John's said: "The Antigua and Barbuda government has uncovered a major money laundering operation by a former Prime Minister of the Ukraine, Pavlo Lazarenko, and has moved swiftly to freeze bank accounts and to inform the governments of the Ukraine, Switzerland and the United States.

"The sums involved in the money laundering operation total in excess of US \$80 million and appear to be the proceeds of major fraud in the Ukraine and money laundering in Switzerland."

The Antigua and Barbuda government said it had discovered the money laundering operation when Euro Fed Bank, formerly known as the European

Federal Bank, reported a suspicious activity under Antigua and Barbuda's strict regulatory requirements.

"A quick response from the Office of National Drug Control and Money Laundering Policy (ONDCP) revealed the full extent of accounts held by Lazarenko, including links to Switzerland and the Ukraine," the statement from Prime Minister Lester Bird's office said.

"On 15th October, the government of Antigua and Barbuda advised the governments of the Ukraine, Switzerland and the United States of its findings and invited interested governments to apply for legal assistance from Antigua and Barbuda which it said would be immediately forthcoming.

"Since then, US government authorities informed the Antigua and Barbuda government that Lazarenko was under arrest in San Francisco pending extradition to Switzerland for money laundering. Both the Ukraine and

Swiss governments have applied to the Antigua authorities for assistance which has been readily given by the Antigua and Barbuda government.

"In its application for assistance, the Ukraine government identified a number of companies owned by Lazarenko which were used to launder money. The companies are registered in the United Kingdom, the Bahamas, the United States, Cayman Islands and the British Virgin Islands."

The statement quoted Wrenford Ferrance, the head of The ONDCP, as saying, "We have frozen all the accounts that have been traceable to Lazarenko. We have also ensured that the accounts of Euro Fed Bank in Switzerland are frozen until it is clear how much of that money can be connected to Lazarenko."

Ferrance asserted that "Antigua and Barbuda will not tolerate money laundering or any form of criminal financial activity in our jurisdiction."



Francisco Labastida (right) celebrates his victory in the ruling PRI's (Institutional Revolutionary Party) first-ever primary to choose its candidate for next year's Presidential elections at a hotel in Mexico City November 7. Today Mexicans participated in the PRI's selection procedure for candidates for the Presidency and for Mexico City's Mayor, for the first time in 70 years of a tradition of hand-picked successors.

Trinidad paper calls for end to Guyana-Venezuela dispute

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad—The Express newspaper in Trinidad on Monday called for the resumption of peaceful negotiations to end tensions between Venezuela and Guyana over a century-long border dispute.

The newspaper also urged Barbadian jurist Oliver Jackman, appointed by the United Nations to oversee continued negotiations on the dispute, and the governments to refrain from any action that would sour relations between the two South American countries.

"The dispute is 100 years old this year but there are still possibilities for a new and peaceful resolution," the paper said in an editorial.

"Neighbours should agree to disagree. The entire Caribbean would wish Guyana and Venezuela to resume peaceful negotiations to this dispute," it added.

The 100-year old dispute results from an award by an international tribunal in October 1899 that demarcated the borders as it now exists. Venezuela, however, has been making claims to two-thirds of Guyana's 83,000 square miles that covers most of the mineral rich areas of the Essequibo region.

The Express said that when the border dispute began heating up in the late 60s and early 70s, this country's first Prime Minister Dr Eric Williams, now deceased, brought

the two countries to the discussion table.

It said were it not for Dr Williams' timely intervention, the dispute might have led to violence.

Dutch seek to quiz Bouterse over deaths

AMSTERDAM—A Dutch court is seeking to question Suriname's former military leader Desi Bouterse over the killing of 15 dissidents in the former Dutch colony in December 1982, the public prosecutor's office said on Monday.

"The Amsterdam court has asked the public prosecutor's office to investigate whether Bouterse can be prosecuted in the Netherlands for the killings," a spokeswoman told Reuters. Several relatives of the victims had filed legal complaints with the prosecutor's office for not prosecuting the former military leader, she said.

"We are now investigating whether we can summon Bouterse for questioning on the basis of Dutch criminal law, or on crimes against humanity," the spokes-



Desi Bouterse woman said.

Bouterse staged military coups in the Latin American colony in 1980 and 1990. During his rule 15 dissident politicians, intellectuals and journalists were shot dead in December 1982.

In July he was sentenced in absentia by a Dutch court to 16 years in prison and a fine of 4.7 million guilders (\$2.8 million) for drug smuggling. Bouterse has dismissed the ruling as politically motivated.

Bouterse, 54, still lives in Suriname, a country of 400,000 which gained independence from the Netherlands in 1975, where he served as chief adviser to President Jules Wijdenbosch until the head of state sacked him in April. He wields enormous power and heads governing National Democratic Party.

Price hike coming after tariff cuts

CASTRIES, St. Lucia—In St. Lucia, drinkers of imported canned beer and whisky will have to pay more to support their habits, starting January 1.

Parliamentarians here have just approved increases in the import duties on these products, certain types of motor vehicles, and spare parts, explosives and fireworks.

The increases are designed to recoup revenue that will be lost due to further reduction of the Caribbean Community's Common External Tariff (CET) on goods imported from third countries.

St. Lucia's Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Kenny Anthony suggested last week that the alcoholic beverages were being specially targeted because government wanted to discourage the abuse of alcohol and eliminate certain behaviour associated with such abuse.

However, he admitted that the government also had to consider protection for the island's developing alcohol industry. "Happily, these distilleries we have here understand that they have to survive on the open market," the St. Lucia leader said.

"But we cannot allow a situation where other persons, by all manner of devices, ensure that they export alcohol to St. Lucia to attempt to kill our industry."

Exceptions to the duty hikes will be beer in 19 liter containers, beer and stout in bottles, and bottled rum not exceeding 46 per cent proof. Duties on beer in metal containers, whisky, vodka, gin and brandy are expected to increase from 13.6 per cent.

Duties on vehicles exceeding 18,000 cylinders but fewer than 2,000 cc are expected to increase by 2.5 per cent. Anthony said this would not affect the vast majority of St. Lucians who acquired vehicles of 1800 cc or under. The rate on new vehicles of over 2000 cc but not exceeding 3000 cc would be no more than 5 per cent.



Supporters of presidential candidate Oscar Berger celebrate the arrival of their leader during early results of the elections in Guatemala City, November 8. Guatemalans voted for the presidency and other offices in the first general elections since the end of a 36-year civil war.

Finance minister attacks banana industry leader

CASTRIES, St. Lucia—St. Vincent's Finance Minister, Arnlim Eustace, said on Sunday that the Windward Islands would not "sit idly by" and allow the destruction of the company which markets the islands' bananas—the Windward Islands Banana Development and Exporting Company (WIBDECO).

He was commenting on comments made by Chairman of the St. Lucia Banana Corporation (SLBC) Patrick Joseph, who said farmers were getting a raw deal from WIBDECO. Addressing the 30th annual convention of the opposition United Workers Party (UWP) of St. Lucia, Eustace traced the various contributions the banana marketing company had made since its formation in 1994.

"We are not going to sit idly by and watch them destroy the industry for their own selfish ends... what so many in St. Lucia and the Windwards

fought so hard to build. St. Vincent and the Grenadines will fight them to the end," Eustace said.

Joseph has been threatening to pull his farming group

out of WIBDECO which he claims has been denying Windward Islands (Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent) farmers some monies from bananas.

AT&T funds for USVI

ST. THOMAS, USVI—The Virgin Islands government has received US \$4.3 million from AT&T, the giant telephone company, from a settlement in connection with the 1996 drilling mud spill at Butler Bay in St. Croix.

A cheque for the money was handed over to Governor Charles Turnbull on Saturday, a government release said. The government said it expected a cheque for another US \$400,000 to arrive within the next week.

The money represents the bulk of the US \$8 million the telephone company agreed to pay the government in a settlement reached in March this year.

The government agreed to accept \$8

million of the \$23 million fine the Department of Planning and Natural Resources levied against AT&T.

By law, half of the \$4.3 million payment will go into the Union Administration Fund, which is designed to provide funds the government owes in back-pay to public servants.

The other half will be put to use in the general operations of the government. AT&T had been cited for more than 2,500 violations in connection with its fibre-optic cable project at Butler Bay on St. Croix.

The project caused a spill which killed coral and damaged frill coral reefs.

Latam heads to condemn US embargo on Cuba

HAVANA, Cuba—Heads of Latin America, Spain and Portugal will unite against the nearly four-decade-old US embargo on communist-ruled Cuba in a joint declaration at the end of next week's Ibero-American Summit in Havana.

The leaders will also pledge their commitment to democracy and political plurality, and warn of the perils a globalized economy presents for poorer nations, according to a draft version of the Declaration of Havana seen on Monday by Reuters.

The largely predictable 12-point document was negotiated ahead of the summit by advance delegations from the 21 countries that form the Ibero-American region and participate in its annual meeting. Five presidents — from Argentina, Chile, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and El Salvador — are boycotting the meeting either as a pro-

test against Spain over the case of former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet, or due to political differences with Cuba.

The region's fresh condemnation of the U.S. sanctions on Havana, in place since soon after the 1959 Cuban Revolution, will please President Fidel Castro, who is hosting the Nov. 15-16 summit for the first time.

"We repeat our firm rejection of all unilateral and extra-territorial measures contrary to international law and the commonly-accepted rules of free trade," reads point three of the preliminary version of the declaration.

"In this context we reiterate again our exhortation to the US government to end the application of the Helms-Burton law, in conformity with the resolutions of the U.N. General Assembly," it adds.

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Drug-mule appeals sentence

HAMILTON, Bermuda—A Jamaican salesman, jailed in July for 12 years for smuggling liquid cocaine in rum bottles into Bermuda, is appealing his conviction and sentence, lawyers said.

Clifton Hopeton Morrison, 38, was convicted in July of possession of cocaine worth US \$90,000 dollars and pos-

session with intent to supply.

At the Court of Appeal, Morrison's lawyer Victoria Pearman questioned the accuracy of police notes about when her client was under arrest. She said that at the Supreme Court trial police had stated Morrison had been arrested at Bermuda

International Airport, but Morrison said officers had told him that he was not under arrest at that point.

She said the notes showed that Morrison had wanted a break during the interview, at which point he wanted to be taken for a ride around Bermuda. He later said he wanted to tell everything.



Texans Gov. George W. Bush (R) reacts to a joke by former Florida Democratic Gov. Wayne Mixon (C) as Mixon endorses his candidacy for president in Orlando on Monday. At left is Bush's brother, Florida Republican Gov. Jeb Bush.

US says the French just trying to be different

WASHINGTON—The United States on Monday made light of European attempts to keep a distance from U.S. policy, saying French policy-makers especially sometimes disagree with Washington just to show that they are different.

State Department spokesman James Rubin also said French leaders had a puzzling obsession with a powerful United States, when they should worry more about Iraqi weapons programmes. "The desire on the part of occasionally some (politicians) in France to differentiate themselves from the United States by disagreeing when they don't really disagree is a matter of frustration," Rubin told a his daily briefing.

"To be different than the United States doesn't add to any country's force unless the difference is justified, and often we feel that being different for difference's sake sometimes drives some in Europe," he added.

The spokesman was answering questions on recent speeches by French President Jacques Chirac and Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine,

both of whom questioned the willingness of the United States to act as a partner in a multilateral system. Vedrine called the United States a "hyperpower" and said France wanted a multipolar world with Europe as a pole.

Chirac deplored the trend toward isolationism and unilateralism in U.S. policy, exemplified by the U.S. Senate's refusal to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the administration's plan to develop a missile defence system.

Rubin said: "We do find it puzzling and very strange indeed that French leaders would spend so much time and focus on the dangers to France of a powerful United States rather than the dangers both we and France face from Iraq and others that would build weapons of mass destruction."

He said Washington was accustomed to accusations of hegemony, from China, the Middle East and sometimes Europe. "That's what it means to be the United States," he added. "Our view is that when we work together, we tend to

achieve our objectives—the way we worked together in Kosovo. When we have differences, as in the case of Iraq or others, it becomes harder to achieve our objectives."

"Certainly we want to be a partner with European countries, including France, in pursuing our joint interests, and we want to act in a way that is based on partnership," he added.

But European countries should also understand that the United States sometimes has to solve problems outside Europe. "Our national interests require us, as a global power, often to act in ways different than European countries," he added.

Bradley blasts Gore for quitting on health care

CHICAGO—Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley launched his fiercest attack yet on Al Gore on Monday, accusing the vice president of abandoning the principle of providing all Americans with health care.

In a speech to the American Public Health Association, Bradley said Gore had learned the wrong lessons from the failure of President Bill Clinton's health care package in 1994, perhaps the worst defeat of the Clinton presidency. "In the case of health care, Al Gore decided it wasn't worth standing and fighting. He abandoned that fundamental Democratic principle of basic health care for all Americans he had talked about so much in the campaign of 1992," Bradley declared.

No more foreign policy pop quizzes, says Bush

ORLANDO, Florida—No more "garbage" pop quizzes on foreign policy for Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush.

The Texas governor on Monday defended his inability to name four world leaders, said he was savvy enough for the White House and swore off surprise quizzes for the rest of the 2000 election campaign.

Since Bush was caught off guard with a test on the names of leaders of four world hot spots—which he flunked—he has tried to reassure voters that his inability to recall such names is irrelevant to his ability to be president. "People are asking the question who can lead, who can set an agenda. I haven't memorised every leader's name, but I know exactly how I want to lead the world to peace," he told reporters at a news conference during a fund-raising trip to Florida.

Bush, asked by a Boston television reporter last week to name the leaders of India, Pakistan, Taiwan and Chechnya—could come up with only a fragment of one, "Lee," for Taiwan's President Lee Teng-hui. The surprise quiz has sparked a growing debate over whether knowing those names has anything to do with presidential leadership potential, whether it constitutes "gotcha" journalism and whether Bush's front-running campaign has been damaged or merely embarrassed.

Asked what he thought about the pop quiz and criticism that he lacked the intellectual acumen to be president, Bush responded by comparing the quiz to an incident earlier this month in Austin, Texas, when he was narrowly missed by a dump truck while jogging. "I think the garbage truck driver, you know, the guy never hit me with the garbage truck either."

But Bush bristled when asked if, in retrospect, he might have handled the Boston interview better. "I just told the truth," he said. "The president of the United States, he says I understand. Three or four foreign policy advisers to former presidents, they didn't know the answers."

Although Democratic presidential front-runner Vice President Al Gore attacked Bush, saying the incident was symptomatic of the Texan's naivete in foreign policy, President Bill Clinton allowed that the quiz missed the mark, noting that Bush would soon learn the names if he were president.

Bush also pointed out that Bill Bradley, the vice president's only opponent for the Democratic nomination, adopted "a pretty interesting approach" when the same Boston reporter tried the same tactic on the former New Jersey senator. "He said, 'I'm not going to play that game anymore,'" Bush told reporters. "I guess that's the tack I'll

start taking now."

But Andrew Bennett, a public policy professor at Georgetown University, predicted that the effect of Bush's flub would be longer lasting than the barbs of comedians and cartoonists. "Now, for the rest of the campaign, voters and the media will be asking does he have the foreign policy experience. This is not the first time he has messed up on this," said Bennett. "By now, he should be ready for the big time. He has to be ready to answer these types of questions."

Many analysts and rivals for the presidency in 2000, including Gore, see foreign policy as Bush's biggest vulnerability, and the failed quiz as reinforcing a perception that he is a lightweight. It also has raised the stakes for Bush in two Republican presidential debates next month, where his challengers are likely to test his knowledge of foreign policy again.

Clinton team to Beijing to resume WTO talks

WASHINGTON—President Bill Clinton sent his top trade negotiator and a key White House aide to China on Monday to try to hammer out an agreement for Beijing to join the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the White House said.

The trip appears to be a last-ditch effort to reach an accord by the end of the month, when ministers from the 134 WTO members will gather in Seattle to launch a new round of world trade talks.

Such an agreement, if it can be nailed down after months of halting negotiations that broke down entirely when NATO bombed the Chinese embassy in Belgrade, could open much broader access to the Chinese market—potentially the world's largest with 1.2 billion consumers.

White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said that U.S. Trade Representative Charles Barshefsky was flying to China with Gene Sperling, who chairs the influential White House National Economic Council. "The president, as part of our efforts to reach an agreement on WTO, has asked (her) to travel to China for two days of talks to see if we can reach an agreement with the Chinese on a viable basis for (their) accession into WTO," he told reporters.



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Praise and blame on 10th Wall anniversary

BERLIN—Germans began celebrating the 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall by honouring on Monday the U.S. and Soviet leaders who ended their Cold War division.

But in a profound irony of timing, a court rejected an appeal by the East German Communist leader who opened the border on November 9, 1989, condemning him to pass Tuesday's anniversary contemplating a lengthy jail term for his part in the killings of would-be escapees before the Wall came down. As former U.S. President George Bush was made an honorary citizen of reunited Berlin at a festive gathering in city hall attended by his then German and Soviet counterparts, Helmut Kohl and Mikhail Gorbachev, Egon



Egon Krenz

Krenz was consulting lawyers on how to stave off going to prison for manslaughter.

Leader of East Germany for just six weeks in the autumn of 1989, Krenz has never been among those credited with the peaceful

resolution of Europe's 40 years of Cold War division and has consistently dismissed his treatment at the hands of the reunited German judicial system as victor's justice.

"I will wear my prison uniform with more honour than certain judges do their robes," said the 62-year-old. He has already appealed to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

Kohl and Bush praised Gorbachev, whose reforms of Soviet communism paved the way for the popular pressure for freedoms that prompted Krenz to open the Wall. "We can never repay the debt we owe Mikhail Gorbachev," Bush said of the former Kremlin leader, who was awarded Germany's highest civil honour on Sunday.

Yet 200 km (120 miles) away in Leipzig, judges upheld the six-and-a-half-year sentence imposed on his one-time ally Krenz in August 1997. On bail since then, legal formalities mean it will be some weeks at least before he finds himself behind bars.

Three-year sentences on similar specimen manslaughter charges were also upheld on fellow Politburo members Guenther Kleiber and Guenter Schabowski, the spokesman who announced the opening of the Wall to an astonished world.



Former U.S. President George Bush (R) welcomes former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev (L) as former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl (C) looks on after Bush was decorated as an honorary citizen of Berlin at the Berlin town hall, yesterday.

Europe may need US-style ballistic missile defence

COPENHAGEN—European countries may need to deploy missile defences against hostile states similar to the system planned by the United States in violation of the anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty, a senior U.S. diplomat said on Monday. Arguing that countries hostile to the West like North Korea and Iran may target long-range missiles against its territory, Washington is urging both NATO allies and Russia to agree to amend the ABM accord signed by the United States and Soviet Union in 1972. The treaty limits defence systems designed to shoot down enemy missiles to one site each for the United States

and Russia.

"The proliferation of long-range missiles—which could be equipped with nuclear, chemical or biological warheads—is as much of a threat for Europe as it is for North America," Alexander Vershbow, U.S. permanent representative to NATO, said.

"Allies may need to look more seriously at the possibility of theatre missile defence," he said at the "Russia—10 Years After" conference arranged by the Danish Foreign Ministry and the Danish Institute for International Affairs.

On Friday, a United Nations committee adopted a resolution sponsored by Rus-

sia, China and Belarus aimed at pressing the United States not to proceed with its planned national missile defence (NMD). Vershbow said critics should realise that the project enjoyed solid support among both Democrats and Republicans in the U.S. Congress and that Washington would not "let our right to defend our homeland be subject to a Russian veto."

Vershbow said the United States had not yet made up its mind whether to go ahead with the missile defence, but that President Bill Clinton "could very well make an initial deployment decision next summer."



British Prime Minister Tony Blair (L) and Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres applaud during the opening ceremony of the three-day International Socialists congress in Paris on Monday.

World centre-left summit bypasses Third Way debate

PARIS—A world summit of centre-left parties on Monday sidestepped a clash with pro-business "Third Way" leaders by agreeing on a compromise stand short on practical proposals for dealing with globalisation.

A congress of the Socialist International, a loose club of more than 130 leftist parties, issued a declaration urging a reform of the International Monetary Fund and more global regulation of speculative funds and money laundering. But it refrained from considering concrete domestic policy measures, as British Prime Minister Tony Blair challenged his colleagues to do, and ended up with proposals acceptable both to New Labour and its harshest critics, the French Socialists.

The contrast between new business-friendly policies—advocated by Blair and German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder—and more traditional socialist rhetoric dominated the opening day of the three-yearly congress due to end on Wednesday.

With 11 of the 15 European Union states led by Socialist International member parties, the speeches touched on key issues of future European policies. But the rivals were careful not to clash openly and were at pains to stress their common values. "A forum like this too big to have a real debate," said one delegate, who asked not to be named.

"The management of globalisation calls for better and stronger political actions," the joint declaration said. "A world without commitments and rules will tend towards inequality and disjunction."

It listed global goals including debt annulment for poor countries, continued humanitarian intervention in crises and more permanent members for the United Nations Security Council. It also called for a

U.N. "Economic Security Council".

"It is essential to ensure greater transparency in the international financial system and to establish prudent rules for all financial institutions, including the speculative investment funds and extrajurisdictional entities, to abolish fiscal havens, to limit the potentially destabilising effects of the circulation of short-term speculative flows of capital to emerging countries," it added.

The passages on increased global regulation of markets echoed calls by France's ruling Socialists while other sections supporting more enterprise and individual responsibility were clearly from proposals submitted by Blair and Schröder.

Blair, who once angered the Socialist International by suggesting it should give way to a more openly centrist group, challenged his colleagues in a lively speech to become "champions of change" and "jettison outdated doctrine and dogma". He warned delegates not to become "conservatives of the

left, protecting vested interests and bureaucracies and old ways of working in the name of social justice."

He presented a checklist for centre-left policies including budget discipline, investment in education, campaigns against crime and social exclusion, welfare and pension reform, support for small businesses and modernised public services.

Schröder, under attack in his own party for a centrist manifesto he issued with Blair in June, said government should support the weak in society but encourage the strong to work. "Solidarity is not a one-way street," he said.

The French, who reject the Blair-Schröder manifesto and prefer more traditional stirring leftist rhetoric, stressed common left-wing values of all Socialist International members. Prime Minister Lionel Jospin said the left now accepted the market economy but added: "Capitalism must constantly be controlled and regulated. To be socialist is to work for more organisation and regulation."

Labastida win bolsters Mexican ruling party

MEXICO CITY—Mexico's long-ruling party on Monday emerged stronger ahead of next year's presidential elections after Francisco Labastida, the party's perceived favourite, won a crushing victory in its first primary, heading off the threat of a damaging internal split.

Labastida, seen as the man President Ernesto Zedillo favoured to lead the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) beyond 70 years in power in elections next year,

won more than half the ballots cast on Sunday, PRI officials said. "Our democracy means nothing if we don't fight the main enemies—poverty, insecurity and corruption," Labastida told cheering supporters, pledging to give a "more human face" to free-market policies.

Sunday's primary was the first time the PRI has allowed its supporters to choose a presidential candidate since it was founded in 1929. Previously, Mexican presidents

enjoyed the undisputed prerogative of picking their successors.

Labastida's main opponent, former governor of southeastern Tabasco state, Roberto Madrazo, acknowledged his defeat and vowed to remain with the party, averting for now the possibility of a split that could have torn the PRI apart. The victory in Sunday's election made Labastida the favourite to win the July 2000 presidential polls against a divided opposition, especially if the PRI remains united.

Political analysts said the clear victory for Labastida and a perception the primary was fair bolstered the PRI. "The result of the primary was spectacular. The number of people who voted (nearly 10 million) was huge. The PRI has a strong chance of winning next year," said Luis Rubio, a political commentator at the prestigious Colegio de Mexico.

A PRI statement late on Monday said that with 88.4 percent of votes counted, Labastida had won 273 out of 300 electoral districts. Madrazo won just 21 while the ex-governor of Puebla state, Manuel Bartlett, came away with six districts and former PRI president Humberto Roque won none. The PRI said it would issue a final count on Wednesday.

Of 8 million votes counted, Labastida's tally amounted to 4.4 million, giving him the tidy majority over Madrazo, with about 2.3 million votes, that analysts had predicted would erode the latter's ability to contest the result.

Early in the campaign the 47-year-old Madrazo had appeared to be mounting a significant challenge to Labastida, sharply criticising his chief advisers and the so-called "neoliberal," or free-market policies, of past presidents. Madrazo had warned there would be trouble if the primary was rigged. Downcast, Madrazo said he would continue to represent those in the party who wanted greater democratic change and lamented the "old inertia" in the PRI that persuaded voters to pick the party leadership's presumed favourite, Labastida.

The conservative opposition National Action Party (PAN) derided the result, saying it confirmed the view that Labastida would in years gone by have been the president's "chosen one," or "el bueno" (the good one), and that the ballot was just a theatrical show dressed up as democracy.



Newspaper editor Mashallah Shamsolvaezin (C) enters the press court in Tehran flanked by a policeman and his lawyer on Monday.

Reformist Iran editor defies hardline court

TEHRAN—Outspoken Iranian newspaper editor Mashallah Shamsolvaezin, charged with forgery and insulting Islamic principles, defied a hardline judge on Monday by vowing not to speak in the absence of a jury.

"I will not speak, I will not say a word until the jury sits," Shamsolvaezin told judge Saeed Mortazavi, a hardliner who heads a special press court.

"Court hearings are unlawful without a jury," he told the judge, referring to Iran's press laws which allow jury trials.

Shamsolvaezin, editor-in-chief of the reformist *Asr-e Azadegan* daily, was arrested

last week on charges linked to the banning of his previous newspaper, *Neshat*. The charges stem from articles in *Neshat* which criticised capital punishment and the Islamic law of retribution, summed up in the injunction "an eye for an eye".

Mortazavi, who under Iranian law doubles as prosecutor, has charged Shamsolvaezin of forging a fax to cover up his own involvement in publishing the anti-defence penalty articles.

"Charging me with forging a fax message is (as outrageous as) charging Judge Mortazavi with being a supporter of press freedoms," Shamsolvaezin said of the judge responsible for the closure of several reformist publications.

Neshat's publisher Latif Safari is appealing against a two-and-a-half year jail sentence imposed on him in the case. Over the past two years Shamsolvaezin has been the editor of the outspoken *Jameah*, *Tous* and *Neshat* dailies, which have all been

closed down by the conservative-led judiciary. "I was arrested last year and charged with acting against national security, this year for supposedly falsifying documents and probably will be arrested next year for breaking a neighbours' window as a child," Shamsolvaezin said.

He also protested against a bail of 500 million rials set by the court, saying such an amount was the standard for manslaughter and not press offences. The value of the bail is equivalent to \$167,000 at the rial's official rate, one-third of that on the black market.

In an open letter to President Mohammad Khatami last month, Shamsolvaezin appealed for protection from mounting pressure from hardliners. The move against the editor was the latest blow to the reformist movement backing Khatami against his hardline rivals. Iran's courts have closed several pre-reform periodicals and banned some of their publishers from press activities.



Russian Emergencies Minister Sergei Shoigu (L) speaks at a meeting with ambassadors from the Group of Eight countries, Norway and Finland in Moscow yesterday.

Russia:

West maintains double standard on Chechnya

MOSCOW—Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov looks on during their meeting with ambassadors from the Group of Eight countries, Norway and Finland in Moscow yesterday.

Ivanov, speaking to reporters after meeting Western ambassadors, also said the Western media was blowing out of proportion the difficulties associated with the 200,000 refugees fleeing the upsurge in fighting in separatist Chechnya. "Apparently, somebody intends to create the illusion of a humanitarian catastrophe and then apply pressure on Russia," Ivanov said.

"Why are the organisations now coming to the North Caucasus so lacking in passion about the situation in Yugoslavia, which lost 50 percent of its industry as a result

of the (West's) aggression, and today faces a humanitarian catastrophe?" he thundered. "Why hasn't a single mission of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) or the European Union gone to Yugoslavia to examine the state of affairs there?"

Ivanov said this approach raised questions about the West's impartiality on humanitarian issues. "This gives rise to questions, both in terms of moral issues and in terms of double standards."

Moscow fiercely opposed NATO's air campaign waged earlier this year to force Yugoslav authorities to grant autonomy to the ethnic Albanians forming a majority in its province of Kosovo. But it has sent troops to work within the NATO-led peacekeeping force in Kosovo following the departure of Yugoslav Serb military forces and police.

Berlin man buried in own trash

BERLIN—A Berlin architect who apparently died of a heart attack was found buried beneath piles of rubbish in a flat so cluttered with waste that rescue workers had to remove his corpse through a window, a newspaper said on Monday.

The 51-year-old man had not let anyone into his two-room flat for the last 10 years, neighbours told the B.Z. tabloid in a report under the headline: "Berlin architect suffocates on his own rubbish".

Pictures of the flat in the working-class district of Reinickendorf showed rubbish bags, boxes and food containers piled up more than a metre high throughout the flat, which was so messy that police couldn't open the front door.

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Acehese protesters shout "Aceh free movement" during a protest calling for independence from Indonesia in the provincial capital of Banda Aceh on Monday.

Indonesia faces biggest Aceh separatist rally

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia—Hundreds of thousands of Acehese massed in the provincial capital on Monday in the biggest separatist rally of Indonesia's history.

Security forces, whose years of brutal rule in the province are blamed for the growing separatist movement, were conspicuous by their absence as wave after wave of Acehese poured

into the Banda Aceh city centre and towards its main mosque, shouting "Independence!" and "Referendum!"

Asked in a weekend interview the chances of Aceh breaking away, regional autonomy minister Ryaas Rasyid told Reuters: "I think 50-50. Psychologically, (the rebels) have been very, very successful in internalising the spirit of referendum

among the people."

And that success was underlined on Monday when, by some counts, up to a quarter of the population of Aceh poured into the city, on the northern tip of Sumatra island. Some estimated the crowd was close to a million while more conservative estimates put it at about 500,000.

But even the smaller number made it the largest independence protest in the history of Indonesia, home to the world's fourth biggest population. The province of East Timor voted overwhelmingly for independence in an August ballot, sparking a wave of violence and destruction from pro-Jakarta militias.

The East Timor vote has fuelled the demands for an Aceh referendum, but Indonesia's chief military spokesman on Monday rejected the calls. "The demand for a referendum is not realistic," chief military spokesman Major-General Sudrajat said in an interview. "Aceh is a part of Indonesia. So Aceh is managed by Acehese people together with the Indonesian people. That's why the demand for a referendum is not realistic and separatism is unconstitutional."

UN urges action to stop violence against women

BEIRUT—A senior United Nations official on Monday urged more action to eliminate violence against women, saying it was one of the main obstacles to building a civilised world in the 21st century.

"The worst problem women suffer from is violence. Women are still subject to violence inside their houses and outside," Yakin Erturk, director of the U.N. division for the advancement of women and head of the department of economic and social affairs, said.

"Women constitute half of society. They are entrusted with raising future generations and yet they suffer bad conditions even in developed

countries," she told Reuters in an interview on the sidelines of a meeting to discuss the status of women ahead of the millennium.

According to a World Bank study, at least 20 percent of women around the world have been physically or sexually assaulted and as many women of child-bearing age die or are disabled from violence.

In Asia, 60 million women are officially missing—discarded as infants or bartered away for domestic servitude and prostitution. Official reports in the United States say one woman is battered every 15 seconds and 700,000 are raped every year.

Forty buried alive in Peru avalanche

LIMA—A massive avalanche thundered into a remote Andean village, burying alive at least 40 Peruvians as they scrambled to flee a flood of earth and boulders that obliterated their mud-brick homes, witnesses said on Monday.

Apparently triggered by an underground buildup of water and gases, a hillside overlooking Sicsi exploded Sunday, sending a sulphur-smelling smoke cloud high into the air and a mudslide, roaring as it gathered up trees and debris, into the village. Within a minute of the explosion—so loud it caused some villagers to faint and others to believe the world was ending—the

avalanche swept over scores of houses in Sicsi and surged on to destroy homes up to 2.5 miles (4 km) away.

Up to 1,200 people were left homeless in the peasant farmer area, some 1,500 feet (2,500 meters) above sea level, which has several natural hot springs. A smoke cloud spread above them over five miles (8 km).

"People on higher ground watched the mudslide thinking the end of the world had come given that we are close to the year 2000," Raul Saavedra, a villager, told local television station Canal N, explaining some common Andean superstitions about

the new millennium.

Many villagers saved themselves by running screaming from their homes as soon as they heard the hillside erupt. Still more of the roughly 1,000 inhabitants were already out of danger as Sunday is the area's market day and they had walked to nearby villages to sell their produce of maize and potatoes.

Even the victims might have survived if they had heeded warnings from Civil Defence officials, urging villagers to evacuate their homes following other, smaller mudslides in the area that started last Thursday.



Pakistan's military leader General Pervez Musharraf (R) salutes a Turkish officer at the end of a wreath laying ceremony at the mausoleum of Ataturk, founder of Turkish republic, in Ankara yesterday.

Musharraf insists no democracy timetable

ANKARA—Pakistan's military ruler, General Pervez Musharraf, insisted on Monday there was no timetable for his country's return to democracy until what he said his own goals were achieved.

Musharraf—who seized power last month in a bloodless coup ousting civilian Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif—used a one-day visit to NATO-member Turkey

to address a range of issues that are under close Western scrutiny. "What the Western world may be looking for is the label of democracy. Insallah (with God's permission) I will put this time label of democracy some time in the near future," Musharraf told a news conference speaking in English.

However, the Pakistani general avoided providing a schedule for a return to democracy. "I have set certain objectives to be achieved. These essential objectives cannot be translated into a time frame."

He travelled to Turkey from Qatar on the second leg of a tour of three fellow Moslem nations seen as a drive to gain acceptance for his rule. After meeting Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit, Musharraf said

Ecevit had shown a "total understanding" of his position and agreed on further cooperation.

Musharraf said he planned to delegate power at the district level in Pakistan to enable more people to participate in ruling, a system he called "democracy at grassroots". "We would like to give them authority and also power for revenue collection. So they will have the financial power and also the areas like the education, health and communication which they look after for themselves," he said.

Musharraf, who also speaks Turkish after spending part of his childhood in Ankara, met President Suleyman Demirel later in the evening. He is due to depart for Kuwait early on Tuesday.

Microsoft rivals seen emboldened

PALO ALTO, California—A federal judge's blistering declaration that Microsoft Corp. wields monopoly power that hurts consumers should embolden its rivals as they slug it out with the software giant, executives and analysts said on Monday.

Many industry players said U.S. District Thomas Penfield Jackson's findings of fact, released Friday, confirm what many in the high-tech industry have long believed.

"Even without this particular judgment, Microsoft is reaching a point of hefty competition that's almost unheard of in its history," said longtime Microsoft watcher and high-tech analyst Rob Enderle of Giga Information Group. "In the past if you were developing something to go up against Microsoft, you couldn't get funding—most of that has gone away."

Microsoft already faces stiff competition on many fronts, and the arena has toughened since the U.S. Justice Department and 19 states sued the company in May 1998. Investors seemed to agree, sending up shares of Microsoft competitors on Monday. The tech-led Nasdaq closed at its seventh record high in a row as investors beefed up their portfolios with America Online, Red Hat, Sun Microsystems and other companies that have challenged Microsoft and its brilliant yet mercurial Chairman Bill Gates.

Analysts said the invention of the Web browser and the rise of the Internet have been key to the muscling up of many Microsoft rivals. Because of the Internet, service provider America Online Inc. has become a competitor ever since Microsoft hurled itself headlong into providing content. Internet access and other offerings through its MSN Website.

America Online purchased Netscape Communications Corp. earlier this year for \$10 billion. Netscape developed the first commercially successful browser and complained Microsoft used its marketing muscle to replace it on many computers with its own Microsoft Explorer.

Now AOL, armed with Netscape's Navigator, com-

petes head-on with Microsoft's Explorer. Together with Sun Microsystems Inc., owner of the Java Internet programming language, America Online forms a powerful force battling Microsoft. Indeed, the battle between Microsoft and Netscape figured prominently in government's case against the Redmond, Washington-based firm.

Led by billionaire Chairman Larry Ellison, Oracle Corp., the world's second-largest independent software company, has long been a critic and rival of Microsoft. The two compete in the market for database software, a sort of digital warehouse that serves as the foundation for the Web.

Of course, the personal computer—Microsoft's Windows operating system powers more than 90 percent of the world's PCs—is still the primary way people surf the Web, and that is likely to remain the case for some time, analysts said. Even so, executives such as International Business Machines Corp.'s Louis Gerstner and others are declaring the PC era over.

Popping up now are numerous handheld devices, such as 3Com Corp.'s Palm that uses its own operating system which competes with Microsoft's Windows CE, a system that runs on cellular phones and can surf the Net and television set-top boxes that let users surf the Web on their TV.



CNN reporter Charles Molineaux reports on the heavy volume of trading in Microsoft Corporation stock from the Nasdaq market site in New York, on Monday. Following last week's court ruling against the software giant, the stock was trading down between two and four dollars.

Microsoft shares end lower

LOS ANGELES—Microsoft Corp. shares ended slightly lower on Monday in heavy trading that saw its stock price open sharply lower after a federal ruling that it was a monopoly, then recover as bullish investors saw a buying opportunity amid the weakness.

The share price of the Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft, changing faster than a flashing pinball score, ended down 1-10/16 at 89-15/16 with over 121 million shares trading.

The wave of trading sent stocks for several competitors higher too, among them Red Hat Inc., America Online Inc. and Sun Microsystems Inc. as investors capitalised on an shifting landscape in the software industry. "There is an additional focus and spotlight on Microsoft's competitors," said Hambrecht & Quist analyst Christopher Galvin.

Red Hat is the biggest distributor of the Linux operating system, an upstart rival to Microsoft's Windows NT which is an operating system

designed for larger computer networks. "We would not have had the opportunity to bring our products to market had Microsoft not been investigated by the Justice Department," said Bob Young, chief executive of Red Hat. "It's been a benefit."

In Red Hat's eyes, the lawsuit has been a boon because it boosts their competitive position—a fact underscored by Red Hat's 21 percent climb to 104, up 18-1/16 in Nasdaq trading on Monday.

Microsoft stock began the day off nearly 7 points at 84-13/16 as investors worried Friday's finding by federal judge Thomas Penfield Jackson could have drastic consequences, including a possible break-up of the company. As the market opened, however, financial analysts repeated buy ratings on Microsoft shares and advised investors that a final ruling could take years of appeals or settlement talks.

Analysts said the provider of Windows software, the Explorer Internet browser and other software enjoys strong operations and solid growth opportunities ahead. "We continue to believe that the fundamentals at Microsoft

remain extremely strong and would view weakness in the shares as a buying opportunity," said Neal Herman, analyst at Salomon Smith Barney. After the market closed Friday, Jackson issued his findings of fact in the government's antitrust case against Microsoft. He ruled the company was a monopoly that used its role as the top provider of operating systems to bully competitors in areas like Internet browsers.

Analysts emphasised that although the judge's findings of fact were a setback to Microsoft, the case was likely to drag on for years and end up before the U.S. Supreme Court on appeal. Judge Jackson is expected to rule in coming months on questions of law in the case and to decide on legal remedies.

Michael Kwiatetz, an analyst with Credit Suisse First Boston wrote in a note to clients that Microsoft stock had much of the negative impact of a court decision already factored in to its stock price, and he advocated buying the stock. "At some time (Monday), the risk associated with the case is likely to be maximally reflected in the stock. Subsequently, the stock could trade with fundamentals," he said.

BP Amoco profit up 72%

LONDON—Oil giant BP Amoco Plc on Monday reported a 72 percent surge in third quarter profits reflecting higher oil prices and underlying performance improvements.

The record replacement cost profit of \$1,955 billion was at the top end of analysts' forecasts, and came just days after a key regulatory breakthrough in its plan to buy U.S.-based Atlantic Richfield Co (Arco) for \$26.8 billion.

BP Amoco shares closed up

22 pence at 566p, mainly a reaction to Friday's asset divestment deal with authorities in Alaska, where BP Amoco and Arco dominate the industry. Sentiment took a knock last week when Alaska broke off talks.

Despite the Alaska agreement, still dependent on public hearings, Britain's largest company acknowledged it would be tough achieving its target of full U.S. approval by year end. "It's going to be tight," Chief Executive John

Browne told reporters.

Federal Trade Commission officials are still working on the larger Exxon-Mobil merger deal and have not found time to give detailed attention to BP Amoco-Arco. "We're conscious we're very much the second cab off the rank here," Browne said.

And company officials acknowledged on Monday that the FTC would have antitrust concerns beyond Alaska, particularly in West Coast refining and marketing.

CLASSIFIEDS

Regular one insertion \$4/full week (60) \$20
Highlighted one insertion \$6/full week \$30
Commercial rate: \$60 for one full week

Classified ads should be booked before 3:00 pm at Frontstreet 17 or The Mailbox at La Palapa Center. Must be paid in advance at all times (cash payment required). Maximum amount of words: 30.

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Honda Accord, grey, auto., A/C, power windows, 4 doors, \$2,500 (negotiable), in good condition. Tel. 76502.

Land for sale at South Hill, Anguilla, 1/2 acre, close to main road. Perfect location and view of St. Maarten. For more information please call 20625 from 6 pm until.

Must sell: 1999 Mitsubishi Pajero lo, 3 months old. Interested persons can call 37031 between 8 am - 6 pm or 70550/92222 after 6 pm.

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Powerful sea-doo Bombardier jetski, hardly used, 3 seater, 95, perfect body. Needs some repair, \$2,300. Transformer 220/110V, powerful \$ 200. **Mountain bike** \$ 75. Call 79591.

1988 Mercedes Benz 300 CE, 1991 Mercedes Benz 200 E, 1995 VW Venlo. Also household items: rattan bar chairs, long couch, small dining table, microwave, dining ware and patio furniture. Call BJ at 97370 or 94903.

1998 Grand Vitara, 4 door jeep, power steering, auto., 4 wheel drive. For more information call 90564.

1994 Ford Explorer XLT, 5 doors, 1600 cc, automatic, fully loaded with remote keyless, locks, power steering, power windows, powered adjustable driver & passenger seats, powered outside and rearview mirrors, air conditioning, 2x2, stereo am/fm radio cassette player, ABS, cruise control, anti theft and alarm installation, luggage racks, pulling hook, sports aluminium wheels, tinted glass, deluxe Pullman seats, direct from second owner, maintained by Ton v.d. Meiden garage, great car for great price \$ 9,900. Contact Robert at Tamarind Hotel, Pointe Blanche at Tel. 24359 or leave message.

1989 Ford Mustang, 5.0 liter, automatic, A/C, power windows, power door locks, \$ 3,000. Tel. 42040, 26300, 92292 ask for Mano.

1993 Toyota Corolla, excellent condition, also as good as new. For more info call 72856.

Waterbed mattress, queen size, good condition, \$150 or o.o., sliding glass doors 6", make offer, used. Tel. 45391.

1995 Ford Explorer XLT, 4 doors, blue, fully loaded, \$11,000. Tel. 24359 (leave message) or call 54166

(Robert).
Jeep Samuraj, hard top, \$1,250. Tel. 24359 (leave message) or call 54166 (Robert).

House in Beacon Hill: 3 bedr., 3 bath., + pool. Plus 3 bedr., 2 bath, house in Cole Bay. Tel. 79864.

POINTE PIROUETTE - 2 and 3 bedr. waterfront apartments and villas, all with private pool and boat dock. A gated community with private tennis court. Good owner financing. Call 76722 or 52769.

1992 Isuzu Gemini, runs well, auto., A/C, \$1,100, 19" colour TV \$150, 22" colour TV \$150 both with remote. Water'ski \$50, 1995 Feroza Jeep \$3,900. Tel. 73194.

ANGUILLA - best developable beach next to Malliouhana, 1,200,000 including two villas. Some owner financing. **Front Street - beachfront property** including two buildings presently a restaurant \$295,000. Call 76722 or 52769.

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1 and 2 bedr. apartments, security, great view, new kitchens, A/C, cable TV and telephone lines. Starting at \$750/m. Dawn Beach area. Call Peter at 75118 or 36047.

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Beautiful, quiet apartments in Saunders with panoramic view, 2 bedr. apartment, furnished, \$1,050 p/m. 1 bedr. apartment, semi-furnished, \$550 p/m. Call 22421 during office hours.

ATTENTION all barbers & hairdressers: we have the right place for you to increase your income. Rent your own section inside an established hair salon located at Amsterdam Shopping Center. For more info call 74395 or 96500.

Commercial space available Dec. 1st, opposite St. Maarten Electrical Center on Wellington Road, Cole Bay. Good for a marine related shop with security and ample parking. Long term at \$750 p/m. Please call 42611 or 75760.

Furnished barbershop in St. Peters, very good location, formerly known as Black and White Barbershop. Contact Michel at 83515 or 98091.

Nice apartment on the Airport Road with lagoon view, 2 bedr., 1 bath., first floor, \$675 p/m excl. utilities, 2 months deposit required. Please call 53507 during office hours.

A studio at \$750 and a 2 1/2 bedr., 2 bath. apartment at Lagoon Garden Apartments overlooking the lagoon. Located at Wellington Road,

Cable TV included, utilities excluded, \$1,300 p/m. Call 75760 for appointment.

Commercial first floor premises, approx. 1,200 sq.ft. plus office and store room opposite Bobby's Marina. Tel. 45472 or 42072.

POINTE PIROUETTE - a gated community with private tennis court and pool, 24 hours security. Large studio, fully furnished. A/C and Cable TV. Call Shirley at 52407.

Dutch Cul de Sac: 2 bedr., 1 1/2 bath, garden level apartment with eat in kitchen and large balcony, \$750 p/m. Call 26281 between 8 am - 4 pm for appointment.

Dawn Beach Estates: 2 bedr., 2 1/2 bath. house, pool, large garden, great view. Cable TV, phone, \$2,250 p/m. Call John at 71986.

3,000 sq.ft. office, located at E.C. Richardson Street #13 (above the offices of East Caribbean Cellular), entrance foyer, kitchen, 3 baths, airco, balcony. Presently occupied by the Federal Dept. of Education. Available Jan. 1st., 2000. \$2,500 p/m. Call 25785.

Beautiful 2 bedr. apartment in Beacon Hill, A/C. Available December 1st. Tel. 53037.

Front Street, centrally located: 2 bedr., 1 bath. unfurnished apartment, price negotiable. Call Kyle at 74982.

South Reward: 1 bedr. apartment, unfurnished, \$400 p/m. **Furnished studio apartment**, unfurnished, \$400 p/m. Utilities included, \$650 p/m. Tel. 83531.

Wonderful 3 bedr., 2 bath. European style house. Not brand new, but very friendly. Separate office with airco, covered veranda, beautiful garden with gazebo, walk to Belair beach, granite counters in kitchen, \$1,800 p/m. Call 22364.

Spacious 2 bedr. apartment with big porch on the lagoon, Wellington Road. Semi-furnished with parking, security, laundry services and airco. Long term only at \$900 p/m excluding utilities. Please call 42611 or 75760.

Semi-furnished 2 bedr., 1 bath. apartment, located at Grand Caïron Drive 1A, Defence. Stove, refrigerator and A/C included. Cable and phone lines available. Call 24310 between 6 - 8 am or between 6 - 9 pm and ask for Oliver Williams.

Commercial space available, formerly China Night Restaurant, Back Street 188, long lease. Serious inquiries only. Tel. 22231.

Oceanfront 2 bedr. apartment, furnished & equipped, beautiful view, common pool, laundry, phone & cable, hurricane shutters. Located in Pointe Blanche, \$1,150 p/m. Call 78972.

2 bedr., 1 1/2 bath. house, fully air conditioned. Residential area with parking lot, \$1,700 p/m. Tel. 79506.

Quality SERVICES

Super learning FRENCH. Next sessions starting November 9th, 1999. Morning & evening classes. Register today at Shambhala Learning Center. Tel. 42903.

Looking for a headstone? Contact Joseph Williams for more information on grave stones. Call 20013 after 1 pm. Caracas Drive # 23, Lower Princess Quarter.

St. Maarten's Day nail special: acrylic full set \$30, refill \$18, design \$10 per nail. Call 90545 for appointment.

We build and repair cupboards, wall units, desks, closets, bed & door frames and vanish & repair living and diningroom chairs. We'll meet your budget. Call 76215.

FREE - FREE information. Earn \$1,250 per day. No selling, not MLM. Call 1-800-882-5044 ID # 489929.

Dream Lower. You'll love making \$1,250 per day. No selling, not MLM. Call 1-800-882-5044 (your ID # 489929).

Kool Bay Bazaar: we buy, sell, consign and trade furniture, household items and more. Need extra cash? Call us, let's make a deal. We're located down La Casa, Union Road, Cole Bay. Tel. 75435 or (00590) 491697.

WANTED

Caribose Fashions is looking for male & female models. Will be well compensated. Please call 77944 or 72828 for audition.

WANTED - male & female models for fashion shows. Must be between the ages of 18 and 25 years and have a pleasant appearance. Call 96500.

We are looking for a Barkeeper, male or female, must be 30 years or older. Must be able to speak English and Spanish, French and Dutch an asset. For an appointment call 22441 ONLY on Wednesday, Nov. 10th between 11 am - 1 pm.

Bar tender wanted, preferably female. Must be able to speak English French and Spanish an asset. Please call 61025 or pass by at Simpson Bay Road # 88.



Planes from the British Airways fleet stand on the apron at Heathrow Airport on Monday.

British Airways profits nosedive, dividend held

LONDON—A glut of low air fares sent British Airways Plc's second quarter profits plunging, but the airline held its interim dividend unchanged on Monday in a show of confidence for its long-term strategy.

Pre-tax profit in the quarter to end September fell 83.3 percent to 40 million pounds (\$85 million), BA said. Operating profits for the first six months fell 51.5 percent to 211 million.

The figures were in line with forecasts and the market was relieved BA held its dividend at 51 pence per share. Shares in the airline jumped five percent after the results were posted, but retreated on worries over BA's strategy and the spectre of a full-year loss in the range of 200 million pounds. They closed just 3/4 penny or 0.2 percent up at 330-3/4.

"They are very confident about their turnaround, but there are still yield pressures and price pressures," said Martin Borghetto, airline analyst at Morgan Stanley.

Like most other European

airlines, BA's yields have fallen this year after carriers shifted flights to North Atlantic routes in the wake of Asia's financial crisis. That has boosted market capacity above demand, driving down fares and yields.

Couple tough market conditions with high fuel prices and stronger selling, and analysts had feared BA might cut its interim dividend for the first time since privatisation in 1987. "The board would not have kept the dividend unless we had all been confident in BA's strategy," Chief Executive Bob Ayling told Reuters.

While most airlines have been increasing capacity—which in airlines is measured by number of passengers times miles flown—BA has announced it will cut capacity by 12 percent over the next three years. By flying a fleet of smaller planes that hold fewer economy passengers but a greater number of business travellers, BA hopes to boost profitability over the next two and a half years.

Stock Market Report

Key Stock Movements 8 November 1999

	DAY'S CLOSE	CHANGE IN POINTS	HIGH	LOW
NEW YORK	10,718.85	+14.37	11,229.76	9,120.67
			(Aug 23)	(Jan 22)
LONDON	6,374.3	+17.7	6,620.6	5,770.2
			(Jul 6)	(Feb 10)
TOKYO	18,240.98	-113.92	18,532.58	13,232.74
			(Jul 15)	(Jan 5)
FRANKFURT	5,647.94	-10.16	5,658.10	4,668.52
			(Jul 12)	(Mar 3)

London Currency Fixing Rates 8 November 1999

Following are the middle exchange rates for leading currencies against the dollar:

	CURRENT	HIGH	LOW
Euro	1.0386	1.048	1.0318
Japanese Yen	105.12	106.38	105.15
British Pound	1.6188	1.6246	1.6144
Dutch Guilder	2.1216	2.1286	2.0688
French Franc	6.3127	6.3359	6.2711
German Mark	1.8822	1.8881	1.8698
Italian Lire	1883.41	1870.25	1851.12
Brazilian Real	1.925	1.93	1.924
Canadian Dollar	1.4715	1.472	1.466
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7715	7.7718	7.7715
Mexican Peso	9.397	9.51	9.4

Extended dialysis center to enhance tourism product

LECTURE ON
HERBAL
REMEDIES
p.25

Offering kidney patients in need of regular dialysis* the opportunity to enjoy a holiday in the Caribbean is the idea behind plans to extend the dialysis center at St. Maarten Medical Center. The Daily Herald learned during a recent visit to the hospital.

Head of Out-Patients Services Rob Heil explains that the idea is not as outlandish as one might think at first hearing. On the contrary. Since 1985 the local hospital has been offering people dialysis services of internationally accepted quality.

He tells of an Englishman who, having discovered the services in this realm provided by the Medical Center, has returned four years in a row for his vacation. There are others from the USA doing the same, says Heil.

He believes there is every reason for a tourism destination like St. Maarten to add this service to its product. He observes that rendering this service will also be quite interesting from a financial point of view. But, he points out, in that case more emphasis will have to be placed on the "service" aspect.

Dialysis services were started when a patient living in the Netherlands wished to return to St. Maarten in 1985. Those were

still the days of the St. Rose Hospital on Front Street. With help from the local Lions Club, a dialysis machine was acquired. Training was provided to two nurses.

When a second patient requested dialysis treatment, it was decided to create a treatment ward in a former linen room of the hospital.

When the hospital was moved to its new location in Cay Hill in 1991, two patients were receiving the treatment, which amounted to 282 dialyses per year.

Last year that figure stood at 2,200 and this year will surpass that number again by far.

The acceleration of dialysis treatment came in 1994 when contact was made with a dialysis center in France. The French colleagues helped out with new machines, bringing the total to 7. This development in turn led to the necessity for more trained nurses. Today the Medical Center employs five nurses with special training for this purpose, while a sixth nurse is being trained.

Presently the Medical Center has reached the limit of its dialysis capacity.

Besides local patients, people are coming in from Nevis (2),

St. John (1) and Saba (1), as well as from abroad for vacationing. Heil says the next step will be to create a true dialysis center on the ground floor of the nurses' home. This will boost the space from 900 sq feet to 2,800 sq feet and the number of machines to 13.

The center will offer patients recreative choices, including TV and Internet use. Heil reports that he and Dr. Theo Jolles went to the Netherlands last year to upgrade their expertise on this score.

The cost of the new project, he says, amounts to US \$600,000. Heil appears to be confident that the capital can be raised. What will be important, he says, is that the availability of this specialized service is made known all over.

* Dialysis is a procedure by which the blood is purified by a machine, a function normally performed by the kidneys. One dialysis treatment takes 4 hours and has to be performed three times per week.



Ground floor of nurses home will be turned into the new dialysis center.



Rob Heil

"THERE IS NO CURE"

Dr. Frank Lavernier, the medical director of North Broward Diabetes Center, visited St. Maarten with the rest of the health care team for the three day Diabetes Self Management Seminar in July. The following article by Dr. Lavernier first appeared in St. Maarten Diabetic.



Joel Brint of Desktop Imaging and publisher of The St. Maarten Diabetic, who made the article by Dr. Lavernier available to The Daily Herald

Over the past 10 years, I have travelled through various Caribbean Islands speaking to the Diabetes communities, as well as the Physicians. I have always tried to bring with me the latest information published and discussed by the mainstream Diabetes community (i.e. American Diabetes Association, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, etc.).

But surprisingly, we educators find similar challenges in the USA mainland as we do in the Islands. I have encountered many people who wholeheartedly feel that, for instance, chromium picolinate or certain other types of minerals/vitamins are either going to help or cure their diabetes.

First of all, as we approach the new millennium, THERE IS NO CURE, but we can offer diabetes control. "Bush tea," offered in the US Virgin Islands last time I was there, has never been proven to do anything for blood sugar control. Many times, something that does help is if there is a change in their diabetes diet (less calories), or increase in exercise, while taking this "Tea." Similar juices and other concoctions are offered to people with diabetes for "marketing" purposes. The advice that it will not hurt you, BUT might help you, because it helped me, is what we call anecdotal in the medical research community.

We see and hear this all the time on TV and radio, and in the printed media. To prove efficacy of these products, large groups of people are studied after they are randomized, and given double blinded studies.

One group will be given the real product and the other group, without their knowing, are given a harmless non-medicated product. Something we call a placebo. The studied patients and the person doing the study do not know which product (the real medicine or the placebo) is being given out and to whom.

In the case of diabetes drug or product trials, blood sugars before and after meals are monitored. Hemoglobin A1c (average 90-120 days of blood sugars) are also monitored. If there is a

significant drop of these values between the placebo and the product being tested, they should be offered to all diabetics around the world.

One last advice, for you computer hacks:

www.quackwatch.com/

index.html bills itself as a "guide to health fraud, quackery and intelligent decision." This site tries to combat health-related frauds, myths and illegal marketing. It is a non-profit organisation.

Happy and healthy searching.

POOR SWIMMING SPERM LINKED TO INFERTILITY

MELBOURNE—Sperm with poor swimming ability frequently have a defect that prevents pregnancy even if the sperm is injected into an egg as part of a fertility programme, Australian scientists have found.

Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development deputy director Alan Trounson said the discovery linking poor swimming ability to a defective centriole in the neck of the sperm would explain why many assisted fertility programmes were unsuccessful.

"If we are injecting sperm that have a defective centriole all we end up with is an embryo that can't develop," Trounson told Reuters.

The centriole, found just behind the sperm head, allows the embryo to divide, forming the basis of early development.

Its role in embryo development was discovered by the Monash Institute's senior scientist Henry Sathananthan in 1991.

But the institute has only recently made the link between poor swimming ability and damage to the centriole, presenting the findings last month to an international symposium in Rome. The findings suggest that a greater proportion of infertility cases can be blamed on men than previously thought.

Trounson said in cases where the centriole was likely to be damaged patients could instead be advised to use donor

sperm.

He forecast the research could in many cases prevent couples fruitlessly pursuing the wrong method to solve their fertility problems.

"We won't have couples with very high aspirations that can never be met because this little tiny object in the sperm is defective," he said.

The direct sperm injection method known as "intra cytoplasmic sperm injection" (ICSI) is used by In Vitro Fertilisation programmes around the world and in 40-50 percent of patients.

Trounson told Reuters the findings had implications for the procedures used during the ICSI process.

Often the neck of the sperm was crushed during the process to ensure it would not swim around once it was inside the egg, but he said that was also damaging the centriole.

"You would not want to do that. You should crush the tail instead because this little tiny engine is in the neck of the sperm," he said.

Sathananthan told Reuters the research suggested male infertility was a greater cause of couples' failure to conceive than in the 20-30 percent of cases currently ascribed to male infertility.

"In my estimation it would rather be 40-50 percent of infertile cases have to do with the infertility of the man rather than the woman," he said.

? Heart doctors flunk own advice ?

ATLANTA—The advice is clear: do not smoke, eat plenty of fruits and vegetables, and keep fat intake low to avoid heart disease.

But even heart specialists who are supposed to preach this advice to every patient, every day, are failing to take their own medicine, Dr. Lynn Smaha, president of the American Heart Association, says.

He took his fellow heart specialists to task on Sunday for their bad habits and for their failure to stress to patients that heart disease, in many instances, is self-inflicted.

"There are those among us who do not follow proper diets, who do not engage in physical activity," he told the opening session of the group's annual meeting. "And if we do not do it ourselves, how then can we translate effective techniques to our patients?"

Heart disease is by far the biggest killer in the United States and other industrialised countries. As diets in developing countries become richer, they too are seeing death rates from heart disease rise.

And yet an estimated 25 per-

cent of Americans smoke — the single biggest cause of heart disease. Nearly 18 percent are obese and more than half are overweight.

The bad news is, the doctors who are supposed to be advising people on their health habits are often just as bad.

"The compliance with what we know are the proper guidelines is abysmal," Smaha said in an interview.

He estimated that only 60 to 70 percent of the doctors at the meeting had taken recent measurements of their blood cholesterol — one of the most reliable predictors of heart disease — and knew what they were.

It was easy to prove Smaha was right. A quick check around the outside of the conference centre turned up several cardiologists skulking with cigarettes.

"I'm smoking only in my own time, when I am free," one doctor said as he guiltily threw the butt of his cigarillo, a tiny cigar, into a flower pot.

"I smoke only one or two small cigars." But, he admitted, "It's not okay."

DINAH VEERIS TO LECTURE ON HERBAL REMEDIES, TRADITIONS:

"Green Remedies and Golden Customs of our Ancestors"



PHILIPSBURG—Herbs have played an important role in the treatment of a large variety

of illnesses, pain, infections and wounds for as long as there has been recorded history. Few

doubt their healing power and many prefer herbal medicine to their chemical counterparts, for fear of side effects. Be that as it may, the history and diversity of herbal remedies and customs is highly interesting and worth taking note of.

The upcoming visit of Dinah Veeris from Curaçao offers a unique opportunity to do just that.

For close to 20 years Dinah has been researching the use of herbs in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. Since 1991 she has had her own herbal garden in Curaçao, where she grows hundreds of "healing" herbs found in the Caribbean and in particular in the islands of the Netherlands Antilles.

Moreover, Dinah talked to older people in all the islands to learn of their experiences and customs in this respect.

The knowledge she acquired

in this field she used to write a book on "Herbal Remedies and Customs of our Ancestors." In the book she discusses more than 100 different herbs and informs readers of the customs and rituals which accompanied their use in the past.

Dinah Veeris will visit St. Maarten next week. She is scheduled to give a lecture on the topic of herbs and their healing powers at Shambala Holistic Center (opposite Atrium Resort) on Tuesday, November 16. (The entry fee of US \$15 includes healthy snacks and drink).

The next day she will be found at Van Dorp on the Pondfill where she will sign copies of her book, which will be available in English, Dutch or Papiamentu, from 10:00am until noon.

Pets cut dangerous surges in blood pressure, says study

ATLANTA—Facing a stressful task? Trade your husband or wife for a dog or a cat.

Researchers at the State University of New York at Buffalo said Sunday that the companionship of a playful dog or a purring cat can cut stress-related increases in blood pressure, even among people with highly stressful jobs.

A study of 48 stockbrokers already taking medication for high blood pressure found that those who got a pet reduced by half the increases in blood pressure that came with stress.

Karen Allen and Dr. Joseph Izzo said the blood pressure of stockbrokers rose when they were asked to talk their way out of a shoplifting charge or calm a client who had just lost \$86,000 because of the stockbroker's bad advice.

But the increases were only half as large and remained in the normal range among those who had gotten a pet compared to those who had not, the researchers said.

"The ones who had pets had a 50 percent reduction in stress responses," Allen, the owner of a border collie, said in an interview.

When it comes to stressful verbal or math tests, Allen said a pet calms people much more than having the other half around. "The spouse is the worst person to be there. The pet is the best," she said.

The researchers told a meet-

ing of the American Heart Association that the benefits were equally good for men and women stockbrokers, regardless of whether they got a dog or a cat. Having a pet didn't de-

crease average blood pressure like drugs can, but it helped reduce stress reactions that can damage the heart, said Izzo, who has an orange tabby cat.

"Drug therapy handles the

nuts-and-bolts of the resting blood pressure beautifully, but it does not affect the stress reactivity in blood-pressure responsiveness to everyday stressors," Izzo added.

General Health burdens of depression expected to soar

LONDON—International experts are meeting to devise new strategies to combat depression, which is expected to soar in the next 20 years and carry a bigger health burden than any ailment apart from heart disease.

"Depression is currently regarded as the number one cause of disability and lost working years worldwide now and it is going to get even worse," organiser Richard Hornsby told Reuters.

"The rates of suicide according to the World Bank's report are going to escalate considerably. Depression rates seem to be going up at a fairly alarming rate."

Hornsby, director of the Sir Robert Mond Memorial Trust, a mental health charity organising the two-day conference in London for the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Harvard Medical School in the United States, said one in five people will suffer from depression in their lifetime.

Experts estimate depression costs \$60 billion a year world-

wide in measurable costs such as medication and therapy.

In Britain alone, the cost is put at two billion pounds (\$3.3 billion) and up to eight billion pounds when indirect costs such as reduced productivity and other factors are included.

"Depression will have an increasing impact on societies and

economies everywhere but is still regarded with benign neglect by most people in most countries," Harvard professor Arthur Kleinman, said in a statement.

"It affects many more people than cancer and yet attracts a small fraction of the healthcare funding of that calamitous disease."

Science report

HIV virus rebounds in patients after therapy study

LONDON—More potent anti-HIV drugs that target the secret hiding places of the HIV virus and therapies to boost the immune system are needed to defeat the virus, leading AIDS experts said last week Wednesday.

But the researchers, whose findings are reported in the science journal *Nature*, added it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to completely eradicate the virus in patients.

Although powerful drug cocktails can reduce HIV to undetectable levels the virus still lurks in the body and rebounds quickly once treatment is stopped.

"The persistence of HIV reservoirs poses a significant impediment to the long-term control of HIV infection and must be addressed by comprehensive approaches to the therapy of HIV-infected individuals," said Dr. Anthony Fauci.

The director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and his colleagues said during early infection the virus establishes a reservoir in resting immune system CD4+ T cells that current drugs cannot reach.

They suspect the virus may also be hiding in other unknown places but more research is needed to confirm the hypothesis.

"Our research and that of other groups underscores the importance of developing more potent

anti-HIV therapies, treatment strategies that specifically target the hiding places of HIV, as well as therapies that preserve and enhance HIV-specific immunity," Fauci added in a statement.

In a letter to *Nature*, Fauci and his NIAID colleagues reported the cases of two HIV patients who were treated with highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) for more than two years. They also received infusions of interleukin-2.

Previous NIAID studies had shown that when interleukin-2, a regulatory protein in the immune system, is given intermittently during continuous HAART treatment it reduces the size of the HIV reservoirs in resting CD4+ T cells.

Highly sensitive tests detected no signs of the virus in the two patients' resting CD4+ T cells and biopsies of lymph nodes, where the virus can also lurk, were clear.

But when the researchers discontinued HAART they found HIV capable of replicating in the blood of both individuals within three weeks and later in the resting CD4+ T cells.

"The lesson that we learned is that there could be other reservoirs," Dr. Tae-Wook Chun, one of the researchers, said in a telephone interview. "There are some places that these drugs have no access to."

Ask the Personal Trainer

Q. From LQ Simpson Bay: I have been doing a lot of exercise, such as swimming, running and biking. I have also been on a 1,500 calorie diet. I am still not losing the last 10 pounds and I am getting discouraged. My weight is 133 pounds. What can I do?

A. This sounds like a very common scenario and my answer will have all kinds of professionalisms in this industry disagreeing. There are many opinions on this question. So I will only inform you from the clients that I have personally trained and have gotten good results with.

First, each person is an individual, as far as what works and what does not. For example, I trained a lady. I helped her prepare her food, etc., and she was not losing weight. We went to see a nutritionist together and found that the honey in her tea was the problem. She took the honey out of her diet and the weight loss continued.

It is sometimes small things that prevent weight loss. Such as two cookies a day (100 calories) for a person who metabolizes slowly. This can add up to weight gain of a pound per week. There are many ways to achieve results in this area and this is just one of many, which uses principles from the body-building world (no, you will not get big muscles, ladies!).

You will get great results, as I have proven and tested this method many times. But you have to follow it and not deviate from the plan. My challenge to LQ, and to anyone else who wants to get aggressive results, is to follow these five rules:

1. 30 minutes of aerobic exercise (running, biking, walking) on an empty stomach (before breakfast) 3 times per week.



Gary Howkins

2. Learn weight training (I can teach you a program to follow). Start easy and build up the intensity to 3 times per week, 40-60 minutes per session.

3. Drink 0.6 oz. water per pound of body weight (i.e., a 130-pound person would be 108-oz glasses per day). Juices, sodas, coffee, etc., don't count.

4. 1 g. of protein and 1 g. of carbohydrate per pound of body weight (purchase a food count book).

5. 10 calories per pound of body weight balanced over 5 meals (this seems like a small amount of calories, but this is an aggressive program for losing those last few stubborn pounds).

My advice is to think one day at a time but plan ahead. Keep a journal. Take a before and after photos and place the before on the refrigerator. Take body measurements monthly. Take your weight every week, as weighing daily is compulsive behaviour, fat loss can only be measured per week. Look to lose no more than 2 pounds per week. Any amount of loss is a success.

And finally, reward yourself with a massage or a day in a beauty/salon for pampering. You deserve it!

Viagra pil for women

coming early next century

LONDON—Viagra could be licensed for use by women with sex problems in three to four years, according to its manufacturer Pfizer Inc.

The drug is already hugely popular among men suffering from impotence and could prove a big new revenue earner for Pfizer if its benefits can be extended to women.

Viagra works by increasing the blood flow and doctors are currently carrying out both physi-

cal and psychological experiments on women to see how they respond to the drug.

So far, the results are encouraging and could lead to the drug being legally marketed to women early in the next century.

"The science is still developing at present but I think we're looking at least three or four years before it's officially on the market," Dr. Michael Sweeney, medical director at Pfizer, told BBC NEWS 24.

View from the valley

The inspiration to write something for the newspaper strikes me every so often. The act of actually sitting down and doing it strikes infrequently and it is spurred by a deep desire to share a view on something that seems important enough to share.

A few days ago I discovered something in my front yard. Something that I'd never seen before, but which undoubtedly had been there in plain view for probably hundreds of years, but never noticed.

When I discovered it, I was cleaning up the debris and mess left behind by José. I was feeling depressed and frustrated at having to clean up all the time after these guys: Luis, Marilyn, Bertha, George, and now José. Enough already! And then I saw this... thing.

Right then and there, it delivered to me on a silver platter, a message so clear

that I wanted to share it with anyone and everyone. But the first few people I showed it to didn't get the message, didn't think it was "news-worthy."

Then, a well known theologian came by. He saw it right away and suggested that this was a message to me and to me alone, because I was the one who found it. What I did with this message was a very personal choice, he suggested.

Well, what I decided to do with this message is... indeed, personal. Yet, it was so clear in its simplicity that it inspired me to sit down and actually write the following.

Good news is no news
We've all heard the expression, "no news is good news." One interpretation of this common phrase suggests that good news is not very interesting; that it's not news at all. Death, destruction, and devastation dominate

the news today. From the distant shores of a Hawaiian island, to the coastal waters of North America, to our own backyard, we're bombarded with bad news.

Imagine that you wake up one morning and turn on the radio just in time to hear the following headline news: "Xerox employee in Honolulu hugs 7 coworkers," "Air Egypt plane lands in Cairo, families greet each other," or, "Heavy rains in St. Maarten turn hillsides green." THAT'S NOT NEWS! Not right now anyway.

But, if our world keeps heading in the chaotic direction that technology seems so hell-bent in delivering us to, it's imminent that death, destruction, and devastation will become so commonplace that they won't be newsworthy anymore.

In the chaos of the next millennium, we'll have to coin a new phrase, "Bad

news is no news," and the newspapers, radio and television will be featuring stories like the ones mentioned above. In the not so distant future, we'll open the pages of The Daily Herald to a story like the following: "Fish spotted in Great Bay." Yesterday morning a crowd gathered on Captain Hodge

Wharf where a small fish was spotted swimming freely among the pilings. A child was overheard asking an elderly man, "What is that, Grandpa?" To which the old man replied, "Me ain' know, but let's kill it!"

The old man was still living in his past, back in 1999 when killing made headlines. Stop.

take a minute and observe all of the simple, common, and good things around you that are not "newsworthy." Do like Ferdinand the bull. Stop and smell the flowers.

And let's keep bad news where it belongs... in the headlines, and not in our daily life.

BJ Welch

Positive criticism

After the hurricane and the floods, how to raise a quick 14 million guilders without begging!

Let me explain what I mean by solving our financial problem ourselves without begging (Holland). Look at the St. Maarten island government budget, which is what Holland is doing.

We spend about four million guilders every month on Civil Servants' salaries, which comes to 48 million guilders a year. St. Maarten only has about 15,000 voters so this payroll just doesn't make sense!

Everyone knows this is outrageous and way out of line. Especially Holland, where we always go a-begging. It should be about half. But let's not get too drastic, because we have to look after our people too! If we reduce this by 30% we save 1,200,000 guilders every month. In a year we have raised 14.4 million guilders without taxing anybody!

Let's be real. Holland knows that about 50% of our Civil Servants are really on a kind of "werkverschaffing" or make-work scheme. I will be the first to say "live and let live." If we can afford it, why not let them freeloard? Heck, if I got the chance I would do the same thing! Who wouldn't? The problem is, of course, that right now we just cannot afford it.

Turnover tax and gasoline tax and "this tax" and "that tax" is not the answer. I challenge anyone, anywhere to explain to me how an economy that is already in trouble can be helped by adding even more taxes!

You see, the government isn't broke because food is too cheap on St. Maarten or because the price of gas is too low. The problem is that government is spending too much! This is the message Holland is trying to send DR.

So, Holland knows we can make it without them. We just have to make the right choice. So my constructive criticism today to DR is, stop

running to Holland crying about our problems.

We need money to fix up the place after the damage Hurricane José caused. I have just showed how to raise 14.4 million guilders to fix the roads that have been washed away in the floods.

Now it's up to you, Mr. Lt. Governor and every elected Commissioner, to show that you are leaders. Take a 30% pay cut and show us that you understand the problem. This way, the Civil Servants will swallow the bitter medicine a little more easily.

In my next bulletin I will reveal a powerful secret that can boost the income of every St. Maartener and take our teenagers off the street corners and put them to work earning money instead of

depending on their parents. Put extra cash in our civil servants pockets as they bite the bullet and help save St. Maarten by taking a 30% pay cut.

I will also show how every St. Maartener can be made better off and have more money. You will have to work hard though, but the money is there to be made!

But first you will have to ask the political leaders you elected this question: Will you let me improve my life and earn more through hard honest labour? They are the only people standing between you and a better life! So look out for my next bulletin!

**Scottie Priest,
Leader of the PRLP**

What's so wrong with fining?

Things really keep on bogging my mind, now with the stupid hike on the license plates. I'm sure this will not be the only letter on this issue, as the editor already mentioned in his editorial of the Monday edition. Nevertheless I would like to ask this simple question: Why does it seem so hard to generate money for the government by simply giving fines?

Every day I see people on the road committing illegal acts by double parking, parking illegally (every day, for instance, over at Maho Bay by the landing strip), speeding, etc. Why not go to Maho three times a day and just fine the hell out of these offenders? Not only do they create a hazard for themselves, but the traffic jams are a nuisance for people living in Beacon Hill.

Having to deal with this mess on a day-to-day basis sucks, big time. Let's see, alone there, three times a day surely on average they would be able to give out at least 80 tickets per day. Say at, for instance, NAF. 275 per offender. I personally conclude that it would help

fill up a few holes here and there. With all the numerous other instances where fines could be issued, it sure looks like a pretty lucrative business.

Fine people for littering, for instance. In the USA there are states that give up to a \$500 fine for this disgusting criminal activity. Why can't we do that here? (Make it NAF. 500, let's be lenient). Not only that, but St. Maarten will be a safer, cleaner place. (Talk about killing two birds with one stone). Haven't we been striving for that for so long. I'm sure a lot of people will have other numerous creative ideas to generate more revenues for the government. This particular solution with the plates seems pretty lame.

And yes, it is true, how are we guaranteed where exactly that extra money will really go?

And yes, I'm also toying with the idea of getting a French license plate. All this endless hassle year upon year upon year is simply pathetic.

M.I.A. Roos

Is the world the wrong way up?

LONDON—Is the world the wrong way up?

A new atlas just published in Britain questions the conventional logic that the north, and consequently

Europe and the United States, are undisputed king of the world.

"Why should north always be at the top of the map?" asked Andrew Heritage,

chief cartographer for Dorling Kindersley (DK) educational publishers.

"It is an irritating orthodoxy, which is obviously rather handy as Europe and North America then appear to dominate the much larger land mass of the southern hemisphere," Heritage told Reuters. "But that is certainly not bought into by many cultures."

Heritage sets out to redress the balance in DK's "Atlas of World History", which, along with the company's new millennium atlas, seeks to offer "the most detailed portrait of the world yet attempted in print".

NEW WORLDS CHARTED FROM NEW PERSPECTIVES

Previously unmapped worlds—such as the subterranean land of organised crime—are newly charted and satellite images show the North Pole by night, fires blazing as big as cities over the deserts of Africa and an enormous arc of Argentine oil prospectors circling the Falklands Islands exclusion zone. "We have not hesi-



Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger (L) portrays ex-cop Jericho Cane with actor Kevin Pollak in a scene from the film "End of Days" as the pair are drawn into a game of cat and mouse with a formidable supernatural opponent. The film opens November 24 in the United States.

tated to use unconventional map projections if it helps to clarify world events," said Heritage. "We re-examined all the established conventions of map making."

Heritage's eagle-eyed maps offer a new perspective on everything from the effect of mass tourism on the Canary Islands to the sooty aftermath of the Gulf War.

From politics to ecology, military history to diplomacy, new techniques are used to plough old ground.

"We felt, for example, that Japan's situation in World War Two—maintaining a

35,000 km (21,750 miles) front-line that dwarfed the Western Front—became more understandable when mapped with Australia towards the top," said Heritage.

Satellite imagery reveals changes in the sea colour around Marseilles in the north Mediterranean, caused by deadly algae killing off plankton, while data from Interpol and beyond builds a chilling picture of the underworld's now global reach.

SPRING AROUND THE WORLD

Alongside conventional regional maps in the millennium atlas are dazzling, cloud-free satellite images representing spring in every part of the world. Plankton fields can be spotted in the seas; the land is alive with growth and greenery.

"It's the richest possible image you could ever achieve from a space-like perspective," said Heritage. "We have also reproduced the very different world views of over 200 past societies, including Arab maps where north always appeared at the bottom," Heritage said.

If Arab maps are "upside down", Heritage said Chinese maps tend to be radial, working out from a central core with surrounding places holding ever less significance.

Other cultures prefer linear maps, he said, with no

notion of north or south, as seen in mediaeval pilgrimage maps that simply plotted routes from A to Z.

Heritage said many Asian maps "see the rest of the world stretching over the horizon. It was a world of little interest to them in the Middle Ages, when they were focused on their own heartland—and it's still true to some extent today."

MILLENNIUM RETROSPECTION

While the history atlas sets out a global view of the world, the millennium atlas wants to be a map of record. It updates the firm's existing atlas and uses digital technology to add a turn-of-the-century twist.

There is an astonishing view of the globe from the North Pole at night, as seen by Father Christmas, and an eye-opening view of British urbanisation, the lights of pensioner communities strung out along the South Coast "retirement belt".

"The millennium is a useful time for retrospection and to re-examine the human story," said Heritage. "At its most simple a map is a diagram, a way of describing the world."

"But while the craft of cartography may have stayed the same, these images show that by no stretch of the imagination could you call it a dead art," he said. "This is a celebration and record of our world in the year 2000."



Stars of the upcoming television movie on NBC, titled "Y2K" (L-R) Ken Olin as Nick Cromwell, Lauren Tom as Ann Lee, and Joe Morton as Martin Lowell are shown in a scene from the suspense thriller film about what happens when the clock strikes midnight on January 1, 2000.



By Linda C. Black

Today's Birthday (Nov. 9). Increase your income through work and wise planning. Accept a lucrative offer in December. Hustle to master new skills in January. A secret friend helps you out in February, and an old enemy is your best coach in April. Follow your partner's advice in May. Ask for the money in August and improve your home life in October.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 7 - Today is a mixed bag. Secrets vie with a compulsion to tell the truth. If you don't want your secrets revealed, keep quiet. Instead, get other people to talk about theirs.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 6 - Today you might feel antsy, and you could want to take a risk. Unfortunately, that is not a good idea. Just about everything sports, love, money looks too shaky to bet on. Keep your money in your pocket and wait for a better time.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 5 - Something interesting is brewing. There could be a surprise, too, from a person you know well. Ask a few questions, and you could find out something you never suspected. Meanwhile, keep quiet about your own secrets if you can.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 7 - A breakdown at work could occur today, but it might be to your benefit. The work routine's disrupted, but this might be an improvement. Be careful of what you talk about and keep private things private.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 6 - Romance looks good although there may be a change in plans. A person you've known for years might throw you a curve. This is not necessarily bad, but it's bound to be pretty interesting. Also, watch out for breakage at home.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 7 - Your romantic relationship should be going well, but something else is changing. Be careful with a project you've been working on. Some information is incorrect, so check it every step of the way.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) - Today is a 5 - You are expanding your viewpoint, maybe without even meaning to. You thought things were one way, but it turns out they're another. Interesting new ideas are abundant, especially about money. Might as well learn. It could help you grow rich.


Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) - Today is an 8 - All kinds of changes are taking place. You'll be more communicative soon, especially about things that have happened before. You may feel compelled to confess, which might cause a problem. Think about it carefully, first.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 6 - Although you're confident, you should also be careful. Keep your secrets to yourself awhile longer. You don't like to do that, but it's wise. If you need to confess, go to a priest. Otherwise, wait.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 7 - Mixed conditions are in effect. Ask questions, and you might learn all sorts of interesting things. Although you don't want to give away too much, you do want to gather information now. Mainly, just watch and listen.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 5 - The problem you're most likely facing involves your friends and work. You're probably being watched. It could be for a promotion, but it could also be for cutbacks. Do the best job you can to tip the scales in your favor.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is an 8 - A secret friend could give you a lead or a way to make a good deal. Protect the other person's interests, and he or she might make it worth your while. This probably won't cost you much, but you may want to make a trade.



Speak your
mind

By Queenie

SEND LETTERS TO P.O. BOX 828

Dear Queenie,

I think I am in love with my boss. He is an older man and he's married but sometimes I wish that he would notice me. I also wish that we could have a secret meeting in the office after everyone has left for the day and it's only him and me.

My boss is sexy, considerate and is always there to listen when something goes wrong. I want him so badly. I have even begun to dress a bit sexier so he would notice me. And I've tried eye contact and a bit of flirtation. But that doesn't seem to work. Is the man immune or what?

Queenie, what else should I do to get his attention?—

Love Struck

Dear Love Struck,

You say he is married, so forget about him.

How would you like it if you were married, and some woman who worked for your husband tried to "get his attention"?

Find yourself someone who is single, available and interested.

Please note:

Only notices of fundraising events, non-profit or educational organisations will be placed in the Events/Notes column.

Events

Tuesday, November 9

CINCELUB ST. MARTIN SHOWING
—DER HIMMEL ÜBER BERLIN
(WINGS OF DESIRE)

directed by Wim Wenders

Place: Golden Dragon Restaurant on Frontstreet opposite ABN/AMRO Bank.

Time: 8:00pm.

As Cineclub is a foundation, one must become a member for US \$10. Each movie costs \$5 (as a 5-time card for \$25).

Wednesday, November 10

CHILDREN'S GO-CART RACE
hosted by Sister Borgia Elementary School.

Place: Cannegieter Street, from Windward Islands Bank through to the Virgin Building.

Time: 9:00-11:30am

Due to this event, Cannegieter Street will be closed for traffic from Windward Islands Bank through to the Virgin Building from 8:00am until 12:00 noon.

Thursday, November 11

AROUND THE ISLAND RELAY RACE

organised by St. Maarten Road Runners.

Team captains' meeting: Seaford Galley, Wednesday, November 10, 6:00pm.

Starting point: Raoul Illidge Sports Complex

Starting time: 7:00am

Registration fee: US \$200 for sponsored teams; \$100 for non-sponsored teams.

Register your team at Super Sports or Tri Sports.

Thursday, November 11

SPORTS DAY FUNDRAISER

hosted by Prefamo Cricket Club, Cricket matches and the Clash of the Giants. Music, food and drinks on sale all day. Proceeds to help towards hosting Masters Cricket Club of Nevis on December 17.

Place: Caribe Lumber cricket ground

Time: 9:00am to 5:00pm

For more information, call Alphonso Webbe, tel. 72287 or 27712.

Thursday, November 11

OLD TIME SOMETHING

COME BACK AGAIN

organised by Our Creation St. Maarten Arts & Craft Foundation.

Lots of games we used to play when we were small.

Place: Back A Yard, Frontstreet, in the alley next to Barclays Bank

Saturday, November 13

FUND RAISING BAR-B-Q

hosted by the St. Maarten Basketball Association and the St. Maarten Junior District Basketball Committee.

Place: PJD-2 parking lot

Time: 11:00am to 4:00pm

Tickets available from basketball players, coaches and board members.

Saturday, November 13

PERFORMANCE OF "DECEMBER"

hosted by the Catholic Women Foundation.

Place: Catholic Community Center on Back Street

Time: 8:00pm sharp

Tickets: NAF. 18 or US \$10

Tickets available from Greta Mathew, tel. 8501; Rosette Richardson, tel. 00590 875187; each member of the Catholic Women Foundation. For more information, call Joan, tel. 83464; Merlyn, tel. 25259; or Rosette, tel. 00590 875187.

Notices

Department of Education Hours

Due to preparations to move into new offices, the Department of Education will only be open from 7:00am to 12:00 noon, until further notice. Those persons who have to sit exams are asked to contact the office on time for the needed information. The Department of Education regrets any inconvenience this may cause.

Afternoon Activities At The Library

As part of this year's Reading Programme, Philipsburg Jubilee Library is organising an afternoon with Anansi story, handicrafts and movie for children 8 years and up, at the library on Wednesday, November 10, 2:00-4:00pm.

There will be an afternoon of Arthur and Franklin stories, handicrafts and movies for kindergarten students and their parents at the library on Wednesday, November 17, 2:00-4:00pm.

Cole Bay Community Council Meeting

The Cole Bay Community Council invites all its members and the general public to a general meeting at the Old Guard House next to Leonard Connor School on Wednesday, November 10, at 8:00pm.

Library Closed On Holiday

Philipsburg Jubilee Library will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 11-12. The library will be open as usual on Saturday, November 13. All users with damaged or lost books due to Hurricane Jose should report to the library before Sunday, November 14. After this date the full price of these books will be charged.

GED Test Registration Extended

The University of St. Martin is pleased to announce that the registration deadline for the GED Test in December is extended to Friday, November 12. All interested persons who would like to take the GED Test need to register and pay for the exam at the University's Office of Admissions. For further information on GED testing, contact the Admissions Office at 23171 or 23156.

SUWA Informative Evening

The St. Maarten United Women Association (SUWA) is organising an informative evening for the general public on the topic "The Rights of a Patient" at the Dutch Quarter Community Center on Friday, November 12. Entrance is free.

Caribbean Folklore Spectacular

A Caribbean Folklore Spectacular is being organised by the Methodist Circuit Organisations and Education Committee, to be held on Friday, November 12. Groups, organizations, choirs and individuals are invited to participate. The item must meet Methodist Church standards. Interested groups and/or persons are asked to contact the Methodist Circuit office at tel. 22284, or Clinton Spring at the MAC office.

Writers' Critique Group Meeting

Greater Works Foundation's writers' critique group session will be held in St. Maarten at Simpson Bay Yacht Club (downstairs), next to Donald's Café, on Saturday, November 13, 9:00-10:30am. The assignment for this session will be to write an article on a holiday or an anniversary. For more information, contact Veronica at tel. 92358.

WIBA Talent Show Postponed

The Windward Islands Bank Employees Association informs the general public that due to the passing of Hurricane Jose, the Talent Show and Dance scheduled for Saturday, October 30, has been postponed to Saturday, November 13, same place and time. Tickets already purchased will still be valid for the new date.

St. John's Estate Owners Meeting

The first meeting of the Participants for the St. John's Home Owners Foundation has been re-scheduled for the WIFOL Building on the Pondfill Road, Wednesday, November 17, 8:30pm. First item on the agenda is election of board members.

Adult Education Courses

University of St. Martin announces the beginning of the Continuing Education Program (CEP) for Adults. The courses are scheduled to begin the first week of November. Courses in Computer, French and English As A Second Language will be offered. For further information, contact the University's Admissions Office, tel. 25171/23156 or fax 25226.

Red Cross Graduation Ceremony

The Red Cross Red Cross informs participants who successfully completed the Basic First Aid Course #1, August-September 1999, that the graduation ceremony and the Swearing-In Ceremony for

brigaders will be held at Red Cross Headquarters, #34 Airport Road, Simpson Bay, on Sunday, November 28, starting at 4:30pm. For more information, call the Red Cross office at 55263 or 52304.

University Degree Program

University of St. Martin is presently accepting applications for admission into the degree program for the 2000 Spring Semester, which will begin on January 2000. Interested persons are asked to pass by the Admissions Office to pick up an application form. The main criteria for admission into the degree program are High School, Secondary School or GED diploma and/or transcript; Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Applicants seeking admission must submit completed application form and all supporting documents to the Admissions Office by December 22.

Musik School

The Seventh-Day Adventist Music Academy, behind Orange Grove Shopping Center, Cole Bay, on the road to Carl and Sons Bakery, offers lessons in many musical instruments. Classes are given Monday and Wednesday, 4:00-5:00pm, 5:00-6:00pm and 6:00-7:00pm; Tuesday and Thursday, 4:00-5:00pm, 5:00-6:00pm, 6:00-7:00pm and 7:00-8:00pm. Call 43830 for more information or pass by the school to pick up your registration form. Space is limited.

Homework Assistance

Educare is accepting registration for children of grades 1 and 2 for homework assistance, Reading and extra-curricular activities. For information, call 78966, Monday-Friday, 3:00-5:00pm.

Motiance Dance School

Motiance Dance School announces to students of the Simpson Bay area that classes in dance for children 9-12, teens, and Hip Hop for teens have resumed at Mega Gym on Friday afternoons and for children 6-9 on Saturday mornings. For information and registration, call Motiance in town, tel. 23097, or Mega Gym, tel. 55616.

For the joint production of West Side Story, rehearsals are on Saturdays.

Language Courses

Knowledge, Language, Enrichment Center Foundation announces that language courses in English (Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, 4:00-5:30pm), French (Monday, Saturday, 7:00-8:00pm) and Spanish (Monday, Saturday, 6:00-7:00pm) at Paula's Country Inn, Peach Road #6, South Reward. The course are for 3 months, 36 hours, US \$250 per course, maximum 15 persons per class. Different times are negotiable. For more information, call tel. 83351 or fax 84488.

St. Maarten College Evening MAVO

If you are interested in getting/completing your MAVO diploma, call for information or to register now for classes starting now, at Rembrandtplein #30, Madame Estate, Phone/fax 37272, Monday-Friday, 9:00am to 3:00pm.

Richella's Day Care Registration

Richella's Day Care & Learning Center is accepting registration for children between the ages 0-4. The Day Care Center is open Monday through Friday, 7:30am to 6:00pm. For further information, call 20223 or visit the Center at Arch Road #8, Sucker Garden.

PMIA Chess Club Meeting

The PMIA Chess Club invites all members and other boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 18 to come out and enjoy a good game of chess at the PMIA Hall on Back Street, every Saturday, 2:00-5:00pm. Please be on time. Adults are also welcome in view of the intention to start an Adult Chess Club. For more information, call 95790.

PEP Institute Openings

PEP Institute & Educational Foundation, informs all parents of undocumented children that there is space available in the immigrant program for children ages 5-16 and an after-school program for ages 5-10. The school is located in Sucker Garden at Arch Road #8. Contact the school during regular school hours at tel. 20223.

Bethel Victory Assembly

Pastors and Leadership of Bethel Victory Assembly remind all members and the public at large that all services will be held at Celebration Place until further notice. Wednesday, 7:30pm; Sunday 8:00am and 6:30pm.

Baptist Church Services

Pastor Steven Emmanuel invites everyone to the Good Shepherd Baptist Church at A Th. Illidge Road #28 (Pittusa building). Worship service Sundays, 10:00am and 6:00pm. Prayer service and Bible study every Tuesday at 7:30pm.

Prefamo to host sports day

PHILIPSBURG—Prefamo Cricket Club will now host their modified Antillean Sports Day at the Carib Lumber cricket ground on St. Maarten's Day, November 11th. The event was previously scheduled for 21st October until Hurricane Jose put a stop to all sports activities.

The days events start at 9.00am with a 25 overs cricket match between the over 35's and the Under 35's. Then from approximately 1.30pm the veterans of Dutch St. Maarten take on the veterans from the French side in another 25 overs cricket match sponsored by Chesterfields and Fairfax.

In between innings and water breaks, a musical Clash of the Giants will take place between St. Maarten's leading master blasters DJ "Sammy" spinning the tunes against the French side's number one DJ Ruby.

Prizes and trophies will be awarded for most runs scored, most wickets, etc. afterwards for both cricket matches. Prizes are being sponsored by Talison Construction and Low Price hardware.

"The public are urged to come out and support this fundraiser," said President of the Prefamo Cricket Club, Alphonso Webbe. "There's going to be lots of delicious

local food on sale so no need to do any cooking at home."

Proceeds will go towards hosting the master Cricket Club of Nevis on the 17th-20th December.

Webbe noted that due to the aftermath of Hurricane Jose the visit by the St. Maarten cricket team has had to be postponed until February. In addition, Webbe said Prefamo Cricket Club were the first to extend their condolences to the West Indies Cricket Board on the Nevis sports radio network, VON, yesterday over the passing away of cricket great Malcolm Marshall.



At the prizegiving on Kim Sha beach for the traditional boat races on Sunday were from left to right: Julian Murillo, Manager of sponsor Barclays Bank, Calvert Carly representing the island boats organisation of Anguilla, Dolphus "Duncan" Romney, owner of winner Showtime, Robert Judd, Manager of sponsor Scotiabank, and Geoff Joseph, Managing Director of main sponsor Carib.

Showtime triumphs in traditional boat race

SIMPSON BAY— "Showtime" from Anguilla won the 2nd Annual Mother of all Traditional Boat Races on Sunday with a come from behind victory, overtaking both Viking and UFO in the final stages of the race to take home some \$3,000 in cash prizes and trophies including the \$400 bonus for being first to round the stake in Grand Case. Last to round, Stinger, earned a consolation \$200.

Viking led the race on the run down to Lowlands after reaching the stake first in Grand Case but was later outsmarted by captain Errol Romney on "Showtime", whose inside knowledge of the conditions at the Beacon Hill end of Simpson Bay close to White Sands gave him the advantage and they stole the lead on the beat to the finish in Simpson Bay.

Meanwhile, the fast approaching UFO grabbed the second place from under Viking's nose, touching the final stake first while the hapless Viking's crew were still busy discussing who was responsible for their tactical error. In fourth place was Satellite, and Eagle fifth. The first three boats to finish were spaced about 50 to 60 yards apart at the last stake.

Despite spall conditions in the morning, sea conditions abated to provide good sailing weather and little bailing out to do. Following the start at Sandy Ground in Anguilla, NWO took the lead by a big margin at Little Anguilla but fell off the pace in the Anguilla channel. St. Maarten boat "Viagra" held

a good position in the race until they broke their jibstay cable, robbing them of a possible second or third place finish.

And Eagle, one of the favourites to beat Viking to the Grand Case stake, dumped a bag of sand overboard in the channel to lighten her up with fatal consequences as the boat then

"stood up" and stopped sailing. "It is a very dangerous decision to dump sand out in the ocean," commented organiser Emitt Lake. "A risky decision that can either help you or kill you. If they were going to do that they should have done it close to the stake in Grand Case. The captain should have known better, particularly as the boat was holding a good head at the time."

Keane gives clearest hint yet of United departure

MANCHESTER, England—Manchester United captain Roy Keane has dropped the biggest hint yet that he will leave the European Cup holders when his contract ends in the summer.

Keane, 28, is wanted by top clubs throughout Europe with Lazio, Inter Milan and Real Madrid all reported to be interested in signing him for next season. And the Republic of Ireland international has so far left fans guessing on whether he would stay at United on a restricted deal, which did not break their wage structure, or move abroad on a lucrative contract.

But now Keane has revealed he will listen to offers from other clubs, after the January 1 window opens for talking to players available on Bosman-style deals, before returning to United to see if they can match his demands. "As much as I love Manchester United I am not going to sell myself short," he told the Manchester Evening News on Monday.

The other St. Maarten boat, the redesigned Scotiabank sponsored "De Bank" (ex-Delta Four) captained by Ian Martin and a crew of 9 trailed the fleet finishing in seventh place, somewhat underpowered downwind with a shorter mast and boom compared to the other boats. "It was our first outing on this boat and we're taking it one step at a time," said De Bank's co-owner and mainsail trimmer Rob Gilders. "Sometimes we were sailing well, sometimes not. We still have quite a bit of experimenting to do to whetset up and weight."

Gilders added that De Bank and another boat Miss Anguilla were at one point almost flattened by the jet blast from a 747 as it prepared to land overhead and hats and other possessions were instantaneously blown out to sea.

Lake said that he was very satisfied with the turnout of 13 boats but felt participation from the public was lacking at Kim Sha beach afterwards. About 9 boats are expected to race again from Philipsburg to Marigot and back to Philipsburg on St. Maarten's Day.



Caribmatra in action during the 1999 Heineken Regatta (file photo).

Caribmatra finishes third in class at St. Croix Regatta

FREDERIKSTED—St. Maarten's Caribmatra finished third overall in a 7 strong Melges class at St. Croix's VitelCellular Regatta at the weekend, the five man crew reporting they were fairly satisfied with the result despite a lack of training opportunities beforehand. Racing on the Bobby's Marina backed St. Maarten Melges were Frits Bus, Eric van Groenigen, Gordon Sims, Nathan Middleton and Olivier Bernaz.

Caribmatra earned two fourth place finishes on the first day Friday, two third place finishes on Saturday, and a third place finish in the final race on Sunday. All races were won by Chris Rosenberg's "Frenchmans Reef".

Hard winds of 25-30 knots on Friday and Saturday caught Caribmatra insufficiently prepared but their class positions improved slightly Saturday

and Sunday after adjusting their set up.

"We were all a bit rusty and not very well tuned with each other for this first race of the season," admitted skipper Frits Bus. "It is a lack of sailing experience too because we had no chance to sail because of Hurricane Jose. In fact we haven't competed since Antigua Race Week and there is nothing going on in St. Maarten."

Bus said they overcompensated for the strong winds on Friday and found their mainsail too tight and lost boat speed, but by the second day had tuned the boat better for the strong wind. Crewmember Nathan Middleton was hit by the boom mid jibe in the first race Saturday, bleeding profusely from a cut to the head, but received attention later.

"We did have some problems with our tuning," agreed tactician and spinnaker down-

wind trimmer Olivier Bernaz. "And for me this is the first time I am sailing in a class with all Melges boats. The up and down courses are much longer than what I'm used to in Lasers."

Apart from "Frenchmans Reef", the two other leading boats in the class were "Sassy Lady" from Puerto Rico and the BVT's "Aigasm" both joining for second and third places on Friday. According to Bus, Caribmatra closed the gap on Sassy Lady on Saturday and Sunday, three times coming within 5 seconds of beating her, and also gave Frenchmans Reef a good run for their money.

Bus noted that co-owner of Caribmatra, Peter Houtzagers, would be returning soon to race the rest of the Caribbean circuit next year. Houtzagers, now based in Holland, recently bought a Mumm 30 to compete in the Mumm 30 series in Europe.

Tigers tremble as Stars win again



Stars winning pitcher Ronald Plaate (L) and relief pitcher Rene Guichard (R).

PHILIPSBURG—Stars won their second game against Tigers 13-7 last night at the Jose Lake John Cooper ballpark in the best of 5 first round playoffs, but Tigers say they will regroup for a final do or die charge on Wednesday.

After both teams traded runs, the break for Stars came in the fifth inning when they scored six big runs followed by 3 runs in the sixth, and another 3 more in the eighth inning to take control of the game.

"The starting pitcher was doing well and the only time we got into trouble was in the seventh when he got into a jam, so I brought in Rene Guichard to close out the game and he gave up one run only," said Stars captain Ronnie Jacobs. "All we need do is win again on Wednesday and see who's coming our way next."

Stars, marching comfortably towards the finals, had 13 runs, 9 hits, 4 errors, 12 strikeouts and left 6 on base. Winning

pitcher was Ronald Plaate, who pitched 6 and a third innings, gave up 6 runs and 9 hits, and struck out 2. Best batters were Hector Gressman (3-5) and Michael Hyman (2-4).

"My curve ball wasn't working tonight so I used a fast ball instead," said Plaate comparing to his pitching to the day before. "I think we deserve to win because we've been practising hard every day."

Tigers appeared resigned to their fate after losing two games in a row. Manager Tony Gibbs summed up the mood.

"Our backs are against the wall. We've got no more spirit to raise," said Gibbs ruefully. "But seriously we've been on a losing streak. We've got problems and we are not the same Tigers as before. Funny enough tonight was the best game we have played out of the last ten games. We fouled up in one inning and they took advantage. They have to beat us in one more game but we are not giving up."

Tigers had 7 runs, 10 hits, 3 errors, 5 strikeouts and left 13 on base. Losing pitcher was Simon Pantophel. Best batters were Miguel Eusebio (2-4), Camille Gibbs (1-2) and Louis Scatliffe (3-5).

The format for the finals is a best of 7 series. The winner of the series is the champion. Tonight Dodgers take a 1-0 series lead into Game 2 against the Dominicans.

Showtime call Stunners bluff in close matchup

PHILIPSBURG—It was only a matter of time before Showtime and Stunners would meet in this competition, and Stunners were made to eat their words on Sunday night in no uncertain terms for inflammatory remarks made against Showtime in an interview at the start of the competition.

In a very close game marked by good defense, Showtime, as Jermaine Buchanan predicted just before the weekend, let their skills do the talking to beat Stunners into submission 67-65 despite having Kevin John Charles and William Barry both in foul trouble.

Close though the game was, everything hinged on smart play in the final minutes. Earlier in the first half Stun-

ners appeared to have an edge over Showtime at times leading by six to seven points until events changed in the second half. Stunners' Miguel Fleming shot a three pointer in the final seconds, but Showtime's Buchanan replied digging deep to pull off another key three pointer and from thereon handed the game to Showtime with some brilliant plays.

Jermaine Buchanan was topscorer for Showtime with 25 points, 10 rebounds and 3 steals, while Franklyn Morgan had 10 points and 2 rebounds. Stunners' topscorer was Clement Richardson with 21 points and 4 steals, followed by Earl Duzong with 6 points and 4 rebounds. Showtime will face another test on Friday when they

meet Trotters Sr, who some say are the best team in the league right now. In the earlier A division game, Trotters Sr beat the DQ Thunders Sr 81-62. Top scorer for Trotters was Marlon Rombley with 18 points, 5 rebounds and 4 steals. Alvin Agdomar contributed 18 points, 7 rebounds and 5 steals, and Ale Simmons had 13 points and 3 steals.

Ricky van Putten was top scorer for Thunders, racking up 18 points and 7 rebounds. Vidal Paul had 11 points and 10 rebounds, and Darius George 9 points and 7 rebounds.

Trotters Jr lost their game by default against Thunders Jr for not showing up on time for their B division game on Sunday.



Minnesota Vikings running back Leroy Hoard is brought down by Dallas Cowboys safety Izell Reese (43) and teammate Dexter Coakley (under Hoard) after a nine-yard gain in the first quarter in Minneapolis, last night.

Vikings explode in second half as Cowboys lose stars

MINNEAPOLIS—First Dallas lost Emmitt Smith with a broken hand, then Troy Aikman with a concussion. Game over, as the Minnesota Vikings thought after

of their absence Monday night by scoring 27 straight points to rally past the Cowboys 27-17. With due credit to the Vikings, this was all about Dallas' stars—or the lack of

them with Michael Irvin, the third of Dallas' offensive tripelets, sitting out his fourth straight game because of a neck injury.

Dallas dominated the first half as Smith scored twice within 18 seconds on runs of 63 and 24 yards, gaining 140 yards in just 13 carries in just 21 minutes as the Cowboys ran up a 17-0 lead. But then Smith left, the Vikings recovered an errant snap that led to a 4-yard touchdown pass from Jeff George to Randy Moss to cut it to 17-7 by halftime.

And when Aikman went out in favour of Jason Garrett with what was described as "a mild concussion," the sixth of his 11-year career, after the first series of the second half, it was all Minnesota. The Vikings (5-4) won their third straight since George replaced Randall Cunningham as the team's starting quarterback.

Dallas (4-4) lost for the third time in its last four starts and fell to third in the NFC East, a game behind Washington and the New York Giants.

Gary Anderson kicked two field goals to start the second-half rally, then George completed another 4-yard TD pass for the go-ahead score with 1:22 gone in the final quarter. The pass was to Cris Carter, who caught it despite a premature cannon blast to celebrate the score that went off just as the ball left George's hand.

George then clinched it with 5:10 left, throwing a 47-yard TD pass to Moss, his third TD pass of the night.

NFL-Standings	
Tabulate under won, lost, tied, points for, points against:	
AMERICAN CONFERENCE	
EASTERN DIVISION	
MIAMI	W L T PF PA
INDIANAPOLIS	7 1 0 189 143
NEW ENGLAND	6 2 0 223 162
BUFFALO	6 2 0 191 150
NY JETS	6 3 0 181 146
CENTRAL DIVISION	
JACKSONVILLE	W L T PF PA
TENNESSEE	7 1 0 210 76
PITTSBURGH	6 2 0 166 157
BALTIMORE	5 3 0 157 108
CINCINNATI	3 5 0 136 144
CLEVELAND	1 8 0 83 238
WESTERN DIVISION	
SEATTLE	W L T PF PA
KANSAS CITY	6 2 0 185 128
OAKLAND	4 4 0 157 153
SAN DIEGO	4 4 0 127 166
DENVER	3 6 0 177 185
NATIONAL CONFERENCE	
EASTERN DIVISION	
WASHINGTON	W L T PF PA
NY GIANTS	5 3 0 259 222
DALLAS	5 3 0 138 138
ARIZONA	4 4 0 199 156
PHILADELPHIA	5 3 0 190 119
CENTRAL DIVISION	
DETROIT	W L T PF PA
MINNESOTA	6 2 0 182 148
GREEN BAY	5 4 0 210 175
TAMPA BAY	4 4 0 122 118
CHICAGO	4 5 0 143 174
WESTERN DIVISION	
ST LOUIS	W L T PF PA
CAROLINA	6 2 0 265 118
SAN FRANCISCO	3 5 0 150 234
ATLANTA	2 7 0 117 216
NEW ORLEANS	1 7 0 123 179

Jays send Shawn Green to Dodgers for Mondesi

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles Dodgers acquired emerging star Shawn Green from the Toronto Blue Jays on Monday in exchange for former National League Rookie of the Year Raul Mondesi and left-handed reliever Pedro Bourbon.

Green, who is from Southern California, would have been eligible for free agency after next season but has agreed to a long-term deal with the Dodgers. According to ESPN and other broadcast reports, Green signed a six-year, \$84 million contract with the Dodgers. Los Angeles also will receive minor league second baseman Jorge Nunez.

"I'm excited to get a chance to play at home in Los Angeles," Green said at a news conference. "It's a dream come true for me."

Green, who will have the means to celebrate his 27th birthday in style this week, was named to his first All-Star team this past season and set career highs in homers (42) and RBI (123) while hitting



New York Knicks forward John Wallace (R) is fouled by Milwaukee Bucks center Ervin Johnson as Wallace tries a layup in the second period at New York's Madison Square Garden on Monday.

Knicks hand Bucks their first loss

NEW YORK—Once again, Latrell Sprewell and Marcus Camby showed the Knicks why Ernie Grunfeld brought them to New York.

Sprewell hit a tying 3-pointer with 7.9 seconds left in regulation and Camby had 23 points and 13 rebounds Monday night in a 111-101 overtime victory over Grunfeld's new team, the Milwaukee Bucks.

"He's responsible for Marcus and I being here and for us playing so well right now," said Sprewell, who scored 11 of his 21 points in a five-minute span of the fourth quarter and overtime. "It's all because of him. So it was good to do it with him here."

Grunfeld, who traded for Marcus and Sprewell when he was New York's general manager, was fired in April after spending 18 years in the Knicks organization. Grunfeld and coach Jeff Van Gundy had a power struggle last season over the coach's use of Camby, who was acquired for Charles Oakley, one of Van Gundy's favourite players.

"It's been way overdone," Van Gundy said of the talk about a feud between the two. "We were together for 10 years and had a lot of success in those years."

Grunfeld was also diplomatic about his relationship with Van Gundy and MSG president Dave Checketts, who fired him. "I had some great years in New York, and

I am very proud of what I accomplished there and the friends I made," Grunfeld said.

The Knicks, who were 21-21 at the time of Grunfeld's firing, went on to the NBA Finals, where they lost in five games to the Spurs. Sprewell and Camby, who helped key the playoff run that saved Van Gundy's job, were instrumental in New York's comeback from a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter. Camby, who turned his ankle midway through the quarter, had eight points in the fourth and was a force on the defensive end, blocking shots and soaring for rebounds.

"He's much more aggressive than last year," New York's Chris Childs said. "Last year when he missed a shot he would get down on himself. Now he sprints back and tries to make up for it on the defensive end."

Sprewell took over down the stretch, scoring the final five points to send the game to overtime.

Allan Houston led the Knicks with 30 points and Kurt Thomas added 13 and 11 rebounds in place of the injured Larry Johnson. Glenn Robinson scored 23 to lead the Bucks, who were the last team in the Eastern Conference to lose a game.

Other NBA results:
Magic - Rockets 102-97
Hawks - Nuggets 100-115
Clippers - Jazz 79-94

Now it's Inter's turn to be Milan's "crisis" club

MILAN—Just four days after AC Milan crashed out of the Champions League there is talk of crisis at their city rivals Inter Milan.

Inter fell to a 3-0 defeat to Bologna in Serie A on Sunday, the latest in a series of poor results. Among the title favourites pre-season, Inter have now failed to win since October 2 and are placed sixth, seven points adrift of league leaders Lazio.

After Milan's exit from European competition, Inter's Ronaldo tried to rub salt into their wounds saying, "I am happy, because Milan are out," but the gloating didn't last long. On Sunday, the Brazilian was looking far from content as he trudged off the field after another miserable personal and team performance.

"Bologna taught us a good lesson," said Inter coach Marcello Lippi. "They are a united and compact team and they help each other on the field."

Former Juventus boss Lippi took over in the summer and invested heavily in an extensive rebuilding of the squad. Experienced players such as Yugoslav midfielder Vladimir Jugovic and French international defender Laurent Blanc were among those bought and Inter broke the world transfer record to sign Italy striker Christian Vieri from Lazio for \$49.5 million.

There were concerns that with so many new faces it would take Inter time to gel as a side. But they began the season well with an emphatic 3-0 home win over Verona on the opening day as Vieri delivered a debut hat-trick and then an outstanding show in the 5-1 demolition of Parma.

The start fuelled optimism that after a decade without a domestic honour, this could be Inter's year. Even AC Milan president Silvio Berlusconi joined in the praise of Inter noting that with no distractions in Europe, Lippi's side would be favourites for the league title.

But with nine games gone it appears Lippi has yet to instill the kind of discipline and organisation that were the hallmarks of his great Juventus side of the mid-nineties. After a shock 1-0 defeat to Venezia, Inter failed to win either of their two biggest tests of the season—home games with AC Milan and Lazio. Inter conceded vital goals in the final minute to lose 2-1 to Milan

and draw 1-1 with Lazio.

"We have a great club and great players—but I still haven't given the side the right kind of spirit," admitted Lippi after Sunday's setback.

Inconsistency appears to be another problem. "With these ups and downs we won't win the title," warned Lippi.

But after last season's

chaos, when Inter had four coaches and a series of damaging public rows, Lippi is promising that the current rough patch will be handled with his characteristic firmness. "We have all to take responsibility and sit down together and deal with things without drama and with calmness. I think we have time to sort things out and sort them out well."



Inter Milan's Brazilian striker Ronaldo leaves the field at the end of Bologna versus Inter Milan Serie A soccer match in Bologna on Sunday.

Reds hurler Williamson named Rookie of Year

NEW YORK—Scott Williams, who won 12 games and saved 19 for the Cincinnati Reds this season, was named on Monday as the Jackie Robinson National League Rookie of the Year.

Williamson, who came to spring training as a non-roster invitee, became the first Cincinnati player in 11 years to win the award, collecting 118 points in the balloting conducted by the Baseball Writers Association of America. The 23-year-old Williamson collected 17 first-place votes, nine for second and six for third in final ahead of outfielder Preston Wilson of the Florida Marlins, who had nine first-place votes and 88 points.

Williamson, the only player named on all 32 ballots, became the seventh Red to win the award and the first since Chris Sabo in 1988. Other Cincinnati winners were Frank Robinson (1956),

Pete Rose (1963), Tommy Helms (1966), Johnny Bench (1968) and Pat Zachry (1976).

"It's nice to just be mentioned with the likes of guys like that," said Williamson. "This is really a shock."

Pittsburgh Pirates second baseman Warren Morris was third with 69 points and received the other six first-place votes.

Williamson was 12-7 with a 2.41 ERA for the Reds, who won 96 games but lost a one-game playoff for the wild card to the New York Mets. He is the first reliever to win the award since Todd Worrell of St. Louis in 1986.

Williamson was more effective early in the season, posting a 1.66 ERA before the All-Star break. He was bothered by shoulder tendinitis late in the year and had a 6.55 ERA in his last eight appearances. He still finished with 107 strikeouts in 93 1/3 innings.

Shawn Green

.309.

Toronto general manager Gord Ash said Green expressed a desire to play closer to home after rejecting a five-year, \$48 million contract extension. "Shawn made it clear that his intention was not to sign a long-term contract in Toronto and his preference was to play in a U.S. market, specifically Los Angeles," Ash said. "Shawn advised the club that his decision was based on his desire to settle down and return home."

Added Ash: "Raul Mondesi is an exciting and multitalented player whose contract status is not an issue. He will be an impact player in the American League."

The Blue Jays agreed to exercise two option years on Mondesi's contract, giving the disgruntled outfielder who wore out his welcome in Los Angeles, \$44.5 million over the next four seasons.

SPORTS



Crew work aboard Young America after the yacht broke just behind the mast during the race with Nippon Challenge of Japan on day three of Round Robin Two in the Louis Vuitton Cup today.

Young America cracks down the middle, nearly sinks

AUCKLAND—The New York Yacht Club's America's Cup challenger, Young America, cracked and nearly sank during competition in the Louis Vuitton Cup on Tuesday.

The 80-foot boat, in second place in the competition going into Tuesday's racing, bent in the middle with the bow and stern folding upwards as it cracked from side to side while racing in New Zealand's Hauraki Gulf.

The crew initially abandoned the stricken yacht, jumping into the water, and were picked up by their support boat. But they re-boarded and started removing sails and other equipment when it became evident the yacht wasn't going to sink immediately.

The boat was leading in its

race against Japan's Nippon Challenge, and was approaching the final mark of the course when the failure occurred. The crew immediately put out a "mayday" distress call.

Nippon Challenge skipper Peter Gilmour said, "they were just tacking, but couldn't find a flat patch, so their bow flew off a few waves, and crashed down again. Our guys said there was something wrong, then they said the forestay (rigging) had gone slack, and it became obvious they had real problems."

Gilmour has said the race committee is protecting Young America and other lightweight boats by cancelling racing in winds that are at the upper limit of conditions permitted under the rules. The skipper Ed Baird

and his crew were second on the leaderboard in the Louis Vuitton Cup, having only lost one race, to Italy's Prada team.

The team support boat took the crippled yacht in tow, and other rescue boats quickly gathered around, and pumps were put on board to help keep it afloat. The scene was reminiscent of the 1995 sinking of OneAustralia off San Diego in the last Louis Vuitton Cup. The Australian boat disappeared beneath the waves in less than three minutes.

Eleven teams from seven nations are contesting the Louis Vuitton Cup, which selects a challenger to sail against New Zealand for the America's Cup in February next year.

Philadelphia clinch first win of season

PHILADELPHIA—Once the smoke cleared and the dusty debris from a fire-belching pregame show was swept away, the Philadelphia 76ers finally got something to work right: Their new lineup.

Allen Iverson scored 37 points and Larry Hughes added 27 Monday night as the Philadelphia 76ers won for the first time this season, 117-98 over the Seattle SuperSonics.

Iverson and Hughes, who call themselves the "Flight Brothers," started together for the first time this season in a shakeup that sent point guard Eric Snow to the bench. "Obviously, it worked," said Iverson, who led a 39-19 scoring outburst in the

fourth quarter with 17 points.

That was about all that worked for the Sixers in their home opener. A giant video screen malfunctioned, cutting short a tribute to the late Wilt Chamberlain. The shot clock, game clock and scoreboard malfunctioned repeatedly.

The most embarrassing moment came when the game was delayed twice for nearly 30 minutes because a gaudy fireworks and blowtorch show left the court shrouded in smoke and the floor covered with dust. Players retreated to their benches while court-side attendants swabbed the decks with brooms and towels.

"Those fireworks things are

silly, anyway," Sonics coach Paul Westphal said. "Save it for the Fourth of July."

The Sixers, who started the season 0-3, ended a 12-game losing streak against Seattle with their first victory over the Sonics since 1992. The Sonics lost for the first time this season after starting 3-0.

Gary Payton had 28 points and hit four 3-pointers for the Sonics, who started 6-0 last season. Ruben Patterson scored a career-high 22 points, but only three in the second half. "We didn't have no bright spots," Payton said. "We lost."

Hughes had a career high in points in his second career start and nearly got into a shouting match with Payton late in the fourth. Hughes thought he'd been fouled by Payton, who took exception. Both were given technicals as the players converged with George Lynch and Vernon Maxwell in the middle of the near-melee.

"I don't worry about altercations," said Payton, who was more concerned about not getting enough shots in the fourth quarter.

"Did you see me get the ball?" asked Payton, 0-for-4 in the fourth. "I didn't get the ball in the fourth quarter. You do the math."



Seattle SuperSonics forward Ruben Patterson (C) takes a shot while being sandwiched by Philadelphia 76ers' George Lynch (L) and Todd MacCullough (50) during the first half of the 76ers home opener in Philadelphia on Monday.